Thursday, October 4, 2012 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 298 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Daily Inquirer Twitter: @dailyINQ

ADB ups PH growth outlook this year

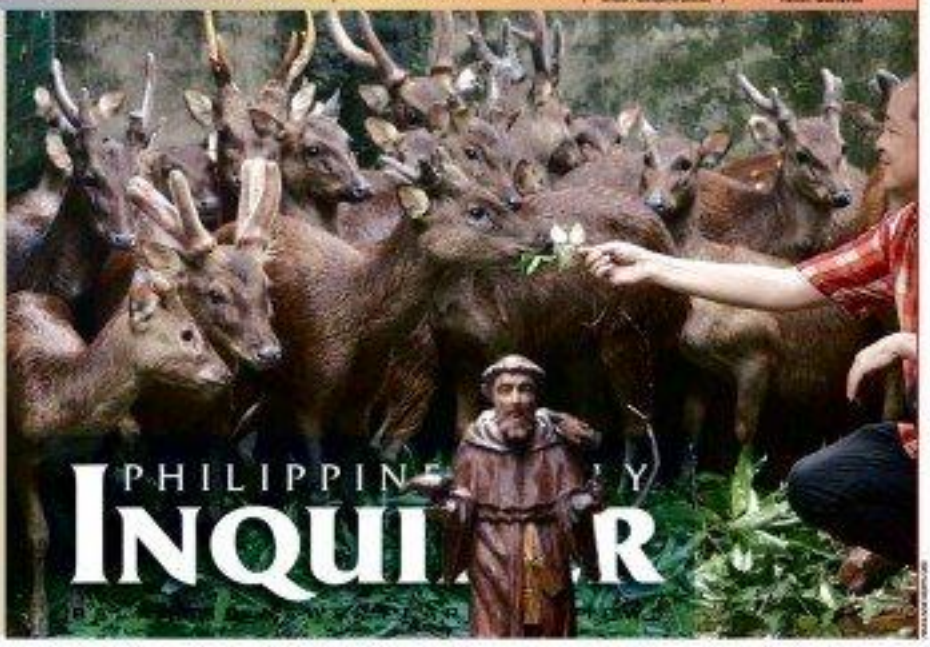
THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) has raised its growth outlook for the Philippines from 4.8 to 5.3 percent this year while it scaled down its forecasts for other developing countries in the region.

"The Philippine economy continues to show strength despite global and regional economic slowdown," ADB said in its "Asian Development Outlook" released yesterday.

The bank cited the rise in investments by local firms, robust household consumption and increase in government spending as factors behind the latest forecast.

ADB UPS / A 15

ANIMALS' DAY Devotees gather round a statue of St. Francis Assisi, patron saint of animals, during feeding time at Malabon Zoo on Wednesday. Oct. 4 is the feast day of St. Francis and is also celebrated as World Animal Day.



Cyberlaw backers blink

UNA's '3 kings' under pressure

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE "THREE Kings" of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) are under pressure to address resentments over the inclusion of senatorial guest candidates despite their refusal to join the coalition's events.

"Some candidates from UNA have reacted saying it is unfair for those who stayed and remained loyal to UNA. I'm sure in our next meeting, that issue will be decided on," said San Juan Rep. Joseph Victor Ejercito in a text message.

What to do with Senators Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda and the daughter of the late action king Fernando Poe Jr., Grace Hontiveros, is the first major test for the coalition's leaders—Vice President Jejomar Binay, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, and former President Joseph Estrada.

Their decision on these three guest candidates is expected to set the tone of the UNA campaign.

SPLIT / A10

NOT MADAME TUSSAUDS' A resin statue of President Aquino gets a final dab from a caretaker of Grupo Iconamuro-Cooperativo at Plaza San Luis Complex in Intramuros, Manila. The statue was made by artist Matthias Garcia.

More lawmakers ready to amend act

By Cathy C. Yamsuan, Leila B. Salaverria and Norman Bordadora

AMID the outrage over the Cybercrime Prevention Act, outgoing Sen. Edgardo Angara, principal sponsor of the controversial law in the Senate, said he would file amendments to address concerns on libel and the authority given to the justice department to shut down certain websites.

Still, Angara, who is reported to be running for governor of Aurora province and whose son is an administration senatorial candidate, said the country was "much better off" with a cybercrime law than "operating in a large universe without rules."

To express their outrage over the law, major news outlets, bloggers, rights activists and other critics turned their social media profile pages black.

Thousands of furious tweets were posted on Twitter, with

CYBERLAW / A11

Lawyers' group appeals for calm amid netizens' protest / A2

- **More groups ask SC to zap cybercrime law** / A11

P-Noy moves to allay cyber fears

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

ENCIRCLED with escalating unrest and online protests as well as hacking of websites, President Aquino on Wednesday assured the public that no civil liberties would be suppressed under the cybercrime law even as he sought a dialogue with all stakeholders.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and enjoyed online by millions of netizens would not be diminished by the Cybercrime Prevention Act that took effect on Wednesday.

Proof of this is that no government agency has moved to stop access to the Internet or suppressed liberties enjoyed online, the presidential spokesperson said.

"People are spreading fear of this law but they should also remember the power of the Constitution, the rights that it guarantees. That should be our safe harbor, that should be our

P-NOY'S / A21

NBI says it has traced at least 20 'hacktivists'

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is investigating members of Anonymous Philippines, a group that has claimed on its Facebook account that it hacked the website of the NBI and those of other agencies.

Special investigator Joey Narcino of the NBI Computer Crimes Unit said also being monitored were Anonymous Occupy Philippines, Prisoner

NBI SAYS / A21

Casiño shows up at Comelec wet and in shorts

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LIVING up to his promise of a new brand of politics, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño showed up at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday crowned by the rain in his short pants and running shoes to register as a candidate in next year's senatorial election.

In that rainy-day getup—and condition—Casiño seemed to have drawn more public attention than the two senatorial aspirants from the administration's Liberal Party who also filed their certificates of candidacy (COC) in Comelec's headquarters in Intramuros.

Clad in polo shirt and chino

CASIÑO / A21

No stopping Padaca from Comelec job–Palace

By TJ Burgonio

THERE'S nothing in the law, not even a grab case, to prevent Grace Padaca from sitting as a commissioner in the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Malacañang said yesterday.

The former Isabela governor can perform the job "competently and without fear or favor" even if she's fighting a graft case in the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court, said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Lacierda said he was positive that Padaca would not be assigned as Comelec commissioner to a region where she would be handling cases involving her provincemates.

President Aquino has appointed Padaca to replace information technology expert Augusto Lagman who failed to get confirmation from the congressional Commission on Appointments.

NO STOPPING / A11

Relax To Soothing Ballads With Rey Valera At Bar 360

An enchanting evening awaits Bar 360 guests this coming October 9, Tuesday, 8PM, as OPM pop icon Rey Valera dishes out his much-loved ballads from the 80's. Relive to such classic favorites as "Kahit Maputi na Ang Buhok Ko", "Kung Kulungan Mo Ako", "Pangako", and "Kung Tayo'y Maglalayo".

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NEWS	NATION	WORLD	METRO	BUSINESS
Palace sees peace deal with MILF / A2	**Poll** quest pits brother vs brother / A19	**Honduran** politicos give free coffins to get votes / A27	**Incumbents** eye easy win in 2013 polls/ A25	**ADB** allots $1.8B for PH development / B1

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2D 12 20 / 18 31 / 22 3

SUPER LOTTO 6/49 1 1 9 / 2 0 4 / 0 5 4

FOUR DIGIT 4 3 0 8

MEGA LOTTO 6/45 2 5 12 13 23 36 — P4,500,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO 25 29 30 39 44 54 — P39,730,150.00

Palace sees peace deal with MILF

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG is confident that the government would hammer out a final peace agreement with secessionist rebels within the year, minus the hitches that derailed an Arroyo administration-initiated deal.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda confirmed presidential adviser on the Bangsamoro peace process, Marvic Leonen, chair of the government negotiating panel, that a framework agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was almost ready for unveiling.

The framework agreement serves as the blueprint for the final peace agreement, officials said.

"I'm sure Marvic Leonen will not be issuing a statement unless he is confident that a framework agreement is in sight," Lacierda told in a Malacañang briefing. "So, we are very hopeful that we will have a signing before the end of the year."

Both the government and MILF panels are meeting in Kuala Lumpur for four-day talks, indicated that the framework agreement could be signed as early as this week.

According to reports, a peace deal with the MILF would lead to an expanded autonomous area for Muslims in Mindanao before President Aquino steps down in 2016.

Lacierda said recent developments in the negotiations augured well for the signing of a final peace agreement.

"Suffice it to say that the talks have been moving forward, the talks have been fruitful," he said. "We are optimistic that we will be having a signed agreement before the end of year."

Scant of success

Lacierda also said this time the government would ensure that the final agreement would not be derailed by serious issues, as had happened in the rejected memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain forged by the Arroyo administration with the MILF.

LEONEN

"You can be certain that we have learned from the lessons of the MOA-AD and we are cognizant of the decision laid down by the Supreme Court," he said.

In 2008, the then-impending the Bangsamoro territory was met with protests. Its signing was aborted, prompting attacks by the MILF on villages in central Mindanao and escalated into clashes with government troops, forcing hundreds of thousands of residents to flee their homes.

The Supreme Court later ruled that the deal was unconstitutional.

"The current dissatisfaction centers on the extent of power, resources and territory to be granted to a Muslim-administered region. It would be the most significant program in years of negotiations on ending a rebellion that has left more than 120,000 people dead and held back development in the southern Philippines.

New era of peace

Rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said at the talks' resumption that they are "sure on the latest rounds and the smell of success is retained even days."

Iqbal warned that if the negotiations are not concluded soon, spoilers might exchange a final deal. A breakaway rebel group has opposed the talks, and some Christian politicians, wary of losing land and power to minority Muslims, have been accused in the past of undermining the negotiations.

"If we cannot conclude it soon successfully, now (is) we are at the brink of the success, we will be in trouble," Iqbal said. "The greatest source of ceasefire violations, spoilers, and parties who believe that there ... negotiated (because their power and interests)."

Leonen said that "in more than what we hope to be able to do again in the next few days is historical is definitely an understatement."

"We are on the brink of layering the with the peacemaker that can frustrate the process of building trust as we usher in an era of peace, of hope and of recovery," Leonen said. But he added that both sides "must always remain grounded in our optimism" because of the challenges in implementing the political solution contained in the agreement.

Iqbal earlier told The Associated Press that his groups would not lay down its weapons until a final accord is concluded, adding that interregnum could form a political entity and run to democratic elections to get a chance at leading the autonomous region for which they have been fighting. With reports from AP

14 climbers rescued off Bataan mountain

BALANGA CITY— Fourteen mountain climbers stranded by bad weather at Mt. Tarak in Mariveles, Bataan, were rescued by police and members of the Bataan search and rescue team on Wednesday morning.

Senior Insp. Melanio Bautista, police chief of Mariveles police, said the mountain climbers from the Hispa Institute of Technology went up the mountain on Oct. 1 and were about to descend on Wednesday morning when they were stalled by heavy rainfall and poor visibility in Mt. Tarak.

Landslide

The group was able to relay the message about their condition to village official Elpidio Evina who then sought the help of the Bataan police.

In Nueva Ecija, reports from the Office of Civil Defense in Central Luzon said a landslide hit a lane of the national highway in Barangay Pulilan in Carranglan town on Wednesday. Bernardo of the Department of Public Works and Highways, however, had cleared the highway of debris by Wednesday afternoon.

In Subic, two overflow bridges in the province were closed on Wednesday due to heavy rains and the swelling of rivers.

Submerged

Peyrano Ubida, head of Subic's flood engineering division, said the Santo Mario-Cabiguan and Calungan-Santo Tomas overflow bridges had been closed after they were submerged.

The Magat Dam in Ramon town has been releasing water through two gates since Oct. 2, Amadeo Sanchez, Magat dam superintendent, said. Water level at the reservoir reached 192.19 meters above sea level (masl) on Wednesday less than a meter to its 193 masl spilling level. With reports from Greg Rafael Bolledo and Jeanne Grojan, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Rillanor Ubaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

P-Noy sees upgrade of PH civil aviation industry

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino is confident that with the assistance of Transportation Secretary Joseph Abaya, the country's aviation industry will be able to fully comply with international air safety standards and expand airline operations to the United States.

In a speech at the opening of an aviation manufacturing facility in Batangas on Wednesday, the president said that with Abaya at the helm of the DOTC, the Philippines would be able to reverse its Category 2 classification by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In 2008, the FAA downgraded the Philippines in Category 2 status for failing to comply with international aviation safety standards. Category 2 prevents airlines from the Philippines from making new routes to the US.

The aviation industry has been hoping that the FAA would restore the country to Category 1 status, which would verify that it has fully complied with international safety standards.

Pilot case

Abaya is taking over from Dante de los Santos, former Mar Roxas, who has moved to the Department of Interior and Local Government following the death of Jesse Robredo in an Aug. 18 plane crash.

The President applauded the progress in the country's aviation industry to face before Filipino professionalism and quality work and a level playing field.

"My hero does away with the culture of patronage, in which the rules can change on the whims of a powerful few, and have replaced it with a culture that rewards the old formula of income, hard work, perseverance, and innovation," he said at the launch of the B/E aerospace facility in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

He vowed to pursue the same policy in the remaining three years and eight months of his presidency.

"Our administration is as committed as ever to honesty and transparency. We will not compromise your confidence, and we will certainly not betray the trust of our workers, who deserve employers in this town," he said.

Gaining competitive

The President acknowledged the significance of B/E Aerospace's setting up the facility in the Philippines, the first outside the United States and Europe.

"This is proof positive that we are truly becoming increasingly competitive. No wonder the World Economic Forum has bumped us up 20 places in their competitive index—the first push has taken. The response indeed is becoming reality," he said.

Mr. Aquino said the government is not kind of manufacturing for the country. It's time in the aerospace supply sector.

"Not too long ago, making electric fans was the forte—and of manufacturing in this country, and then we lost out to other countries who could do it more efficiently. Now, we are indeed moving up the value chain," he said.

The facility will build galleys, ovens and lavatories for Airbus and Boeing planes.

More rains in forecast

By DJ Yap

STORM signals were raised over Batanes and Zambales as Tropical Storm "Maring" approached western portions of Luzon yesterday but weather forecasters predict it will make a U-turn and leave the country by Friday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast, however, a week of moderate to heavy rains in Metro Manila and nearby provinces as the storm awaits further intensify the southwest monsoon.

At 4 p.m., the eye of the storm was observed based on satellite and radar data at 240 kilometers west of Basco town in Batanes, packing maximum sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 300 kph, Pagasa said.

Maring was forecast to move northeast at a slow 7 kph.

By Thursday morning, the storm is expected to be at 455 kilometers west of Basco, Batanes, and by Friday morning, at 650 kilometers west of Metro Manila, it said. It is the Philippine area of responsibility.

Meteorologist Analiza Solis-Perez said there was little chance Maring would hit land, and that it would likely curve or "make a U-turn" and exit toward Taiwan. Pagasa forecasters Aldczar Aurelio said.

If it makes landfall, however, the storm will affect Zambales or Batanes, he said. He added that the southwest monsoon (locally known as "habagat") enhanced by the storm will continue to bring moderate to heavy rains in Luzon including Metro Manila and the Visayas.

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Struggling with my condition, I didn't lose hope and continued my PALS therapy (semi-chemo) for my SLE. I listened to a radio ad about [redacted] and thought of trying it for myself. Religiously, for one month, I took 1 capsule 3x a day with a ready cup of [redacted] Tea as well. Miraculously soon after, I learned based from my medical checkups, my blood tests gave me hope. No more residues/ contamination or anything abnormal were found on my blood tests.

Today, I am always positive that through [redacted], the effects on my condition and overall health have given me new hope in life. For me, I'm more than just glad to share the good news!"

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PH won't back down in disputed sea–Del Rosario

By Tarra Quismundo

ENDS as it continues to nurture longstanding ties with China, the Philippines will not back down from asserting its claims in the disputed West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) owing to sovereignty ties and without wanting to force.

In a high-level gathering of United States and Philippine officials in Washington D.C. recently, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the West Philippine Sea "is core nationalinterest of the Philippines," and the country would pursue its claims there within a framework of diplomacy, international law and cooperation.

And while China is one of the country's biggest trading partners, the Philippines will push for its claims in the resource-rich territories within the West Philippine Sea, including part of the Spratlys, the Reed Bank and the Scarborough Shoal.

"The West Philippine Sea remains a focus of concern for the Philippines, for the region and for the international community and as we have maintained many times before, a rules-based approach is the only legitimate and viable way to address the issue," Del Rosario said in remarks at the Philippine Conference in the US capital last week.

Del Rosario spoke at the Grps. 26 conference which was sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a US nonprofit, and the US-Philippine Society, before addressing the United Nations General Assembly. Former Secretary Delia Albert and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima also spoke at the event.

In the audience were Kurt Campbell, US State Department Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia.

In his speech, which was posted on the CSIS website, Del Rosario, the country's former ambassador in the United States, welcomed US moves to boost its presence in the Asia Pacific.

"Some have skepticism is once again moving our way, towards the Western Pacific and the maritime margins of Eurasia's East," he said.

Such a presence was "important to maintain the regional balance," he said.

"The geostrategies would present this as part of the new US strategic pivot to Asia. Southeast Asia's strength argue that such a shift is logical given the increasing preeminence weight of East Asia. Yet, however, prefer to see this as America's coming home," he added, using US history of naval presence in the region.

According to Del Rosario, the Philippines and China were to a "very challenging" period in their relations.

He said the West Philippine Sea issue does not constitute the sole total of the country's relations with China.

He said that as the Philippines pushes for a peaceful resolution of the disputes, the country would build a "minimum credible defense posture" to safeguard territorial interest in the contested waters, assuring that such "posture is not will remain entirely defensive."

"There is a wise saying that good fences make good neighbors. Drawing this to heart, the Philippines has been taking steps to build a minimum credible defense posture sufficient to defend the nation's boundaries and sovereignty over sea," said Del Rosario.

He reiterated that the Philippines "does not seek to isolate one country or even force the resolution of disputes."

"Our core interest lies in being able to contribute to ensuring that global security and economic system is based firmly on the rule of law. We are firmly committed to helping build an international system that will be just and fair to all states regardless of econ size and power," said Del Rosario.

PH, Aussie cops forge agreement

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to enhance the cooperation between the two police forces in fighting terrorism and cross-border crimes.

In a statement, PNP chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome said the accord "marks a new beginning in bilateral relations" between the police forces of both countries.

"The [agreement] seeks to develop sound law enforcement and criminal intelligence capabilities to provide opportunities for the sharing of information," Bartolome said.

He said it also "acknowledges the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries" in preventing criminal activities that "may pose a very real danger to the stability and security" of the Philippines and Australia.

The agreement was signed by Bartolome and AFP Commissioner Tony Negus in Canberra, Australia, on Tuesday.

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Lawyers' group appeals for calm amid netizens' protest

A LAWYERS' group yesterday appealed for calm amid the growing public opposition to Republic Act No. 10175, or the Cybercrime Prevention Act, which took effect yesterday.

The Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (MABINI) said that those opposed to the law should press for its amendment by Congress instead of going to the Supreme Court even if no actual case for the violation of the law has yet been initiated.

"We need judicial restraint, not a hyper-activist Supreme Court. The right thing must be done by the right party in the right way at the right time and for the right reason," Mabini's chairman on human rights Lemuel Jeffrey Supsing said in a statement.

The former senator called on the Supreme Court to be careful and not to yield to pressure in acting on the slew of petitions questioning the constitutionality of the law.

"At this point, we cannot create 13 unelected new and women by curtailing and reducing them is not as a super-executive and a super-legislature, shaming the elected, wholesale—a dangerous precedent, a cure worse that the disease," he said.

"Precedent is preferable to having an unelected 'super-Supreme Court' drains the elected departments when there is no case or controversy and the petitioners do not have proper standing to [question it]. The judiciary must be removed by the elected, not by the unelected, wholesale, when there is no actual case or controversy yet," he added.

One of the provisions in the law being questioned by various groups is the one that imposes a harsher penalty on online libel.

"He not should libel whatever or the medium," Supsing argued. He pointed, however, that the Supreme Court has usually liberal in acquitting and imposing libel penalties.

Libel cases in the country could last a decade and the high court usually imposed fines and "tempered the result" of lower court convictions.

The lawyers' group said the approach of Senators Francis "Chiz" Escudero III and Allan Cayetano to file bills to amend the law was better than the course taken by Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, who was the only senator who voted against the law.

"Given the Escudero-Cayetano initiative, the Supreme Court should show judicial restraint. Give Congress time to correct any unwise provisions and wait for an actual case involving one really hurt by RA 10175," Supsing added.

However, the research group Ibon Foundation said the Court should immediately act on the petitions against RA 10175.

Given the urgency of the issue, the Court should have acted with due swiftness. Because a deferred action, it further locked the controversy that has already triggered protests from netizens, including hackers who however taken down several government websites since last week, the group said. *Jerome Aning*

UNA reported to be choosing between Binay daughter, Hagedorn

By Christine V. Bagaoisan

THE UNITED Nationalist Alliance (UNA) is choosing between the daughter of Vice President Jejomar Binay and Pateros Princess Mayor Ed. ward Hagedorn to complete its senatorial ticket, following the withdrawal of Bautista-Binay Ako Women Front.

Former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said he and other senior UNA leaders were in serious talks with both Hagedorn and Nancy Binay to determine who between the two would take the abandoned slot in the coalition's lineup.

"Both of them are strong candidates," said the 75-year-old Estrada, who is himself running for a senatorial seat. He said De Venecia's replacement should be known by latest in time for the deadline of the filing of the certificates of candidacy tomorrow.

Estrada described Hagedorn as his "look-alike," who is known for his campaign against illegal gambling in Pateros province. Estrada said Nancy Binay had been mentioned as a possible candidate before, but she was to get the blessings of her father.

The younger Binay faced batter than De Venecia in a recent UNA commissioned survey that placed her at the 12th spot. De Venecia was far behind at 17th to 18th place.

De Venecia withdrew his candidacy, in the last minute, purportedly because of a business opportunity. Estrada said the non-bonafide would cause De Venecia to be out of the country most of the time.

Estrada said keeping De Venecia's spot on the UNA slate vacant could also be an option. But he said that possibility should not be considered as a "resistance" on the part of UNA.

"Even if we have an incomplete lineup but if we end up winning more seats, we will lend them [Liberal Party] candidates for the Senate," Estrada said.

Aside from the issue of the guest candidates, UNA top brass also has to address the void left by businessman Jose de Venecia who quit the first day of the filing of candidacies.

UNA spokesperson JV Bautista said yesterday that the coalition has a short list of three names to add to its lineup before the filing of candidacies ends on Friday. He declined to identify them beyond saying that these people had been floated in surveys.

"We will not [tell] a candidate who is not worthy. All the three are principled and none of them is a trapo, a traditional politician. They are all young," said Bautista.

No hard feelings

He said the party had "no hard feelings" over De Venecia's withdrawal in favor of his son Jose "Joey" De Venecia Jr., as the party understood his reasons.

"We understand him from the start that he wants. But we didn't see it coming, because he was one of the most assiduous about getting votes," said Bautista.

In his letter to UNA, De Venecia said he has decided to stay in the private sector so he can still contribute more through his investments in the business process outsourcing and technology inclusive niches than in the Senate.

He sent his letter to UNA leaders on Monday morning, just hours before the entire slate was to file their COCs together at the Comelec.

The eight UNA senatorial candidates who have filed their certificates are Hagedorn, Ejercito, Estrada, Lacson, Revilla, Cruz, Defensor Santiago Jr. and Magsaysay. With a report from Darwin Quiocomada

World savior wants to be a senator

By Jocelyn R. Uy

NEED A world savior to straighten your senatorial vibes in next year's elections? How about piking Victor Lanuza stance?

Wearing eyeglasses and dressed in black pants and black polo, the 63-year-old Lanuza yesterday came to the Comelec to file his certificate of candidacy (COC) and offer himself up as a guest candidate of any major party contesting the 2013 polls.

"This is the opportunity to take my hand," Lanuza, who wears a beard and a long hair whipped up in a ponytail, told reporters after furnishing his candidacy.

All that the administration coalition or the opposition Union of Nationalist Alliance needs to do to get him is to "adopt me as their lead," he said.

With the Liberal Party's senatorial slate already full, Lanuza's invitation appeared to be directed at the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), which has yet to complete its senatorial lineup following the last minute withdrawal of businessman Jose de Venecia.

Lanuza said he was willing to be the "bastard of the country so I can save you and give you progress for the future of our nation."

World ends in December

He reminded Filos in his belief that the world would end in three months.

"It would be in December," Lanuza said when asked when he thought mankind would cease to exist.

"Do you know why the world is going to end?" he said, adding "Because the world is conquered by evil forces and there is only one who can save the world and that's Victor Lanuza."

By evil forces, Lanuza meant those who are "selfish, greedy and corrupt."

Lanuza seemed to be updated with current affairs and seemed like he was not averse to using violence to defend what he believed the Philippines.

Asked what he thought of the continued dispute between the Philippines and China over Scarborough Shoal, he replied: "What belongs to us. That's our territory and the ones who try to invade my home, I have to shoot them down. Why? Because this is my country."

Lanuza is among a number of colorful aspirants who have announced their intention to file for the Senate in the May elections.

One candidate who showed up yesterday was a dancer who said he would run on a platform focusing on climate change. Another was a woman who only said she came from Tondo, Manila, and claimed to have no previous supporters in Bulacan province.

Not really a bad day for media-minute stalking out at the Comelec to watch the procession of people trying to save the republic.

On the first day of the filing of COCs on Monday, one candidate said he was on "holy" to a supposed descendant of Raja Sulayman and allegedly the rightful owner of the Philippine archipelago.

UNA's '3 kings' under pressure to address resentments in party

From page A1

SURPRISE RUN Pateros City Mayor Edward Hagedorn files his certificate of candidacy for senator at the Comelec office on Wednesday. Hagedorn is running as an independent

SECOND TERM Accompanied by his wife, Iloilo Governor Sen. Jerry Treñas II files his certificate of candidacy on Wednesday at the Comelec office under the administration coalition.

to join UNA because he believed that it has a more "cohesive" lineup than the administration and that he agreed with its vision to lay the basis for a stronger political party system.

But Estrada's assistance was only for the 2013 elections but also for the 2016 elections.

In contrast, the LP's major slots in the coalition—the Nacionalista Party and Nacionalista People's Coalition—are not looking beyond next year's polls.

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METRO MANILA URBAN TRANSPORTATION INTEGRATION STUDY

UPDATE AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SURVEY

The transportation database for Metro Manila which was developed in the Metro Manila Urban Transportation Integration Study (MMUTIS) in 1996 has to be updated to support the development of traffic demand forecasts to be used in developing a public transportation plan for Metro Manila and the adjoining provinces of Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan.

Toward this end, the DOTC will fund a Household Interview Survey which aims to capture current traffic conditions based on passenger trip patterns and to get public opinion on transportation development. Survey results are expected to support the ongoing MMUTIS Update and Capacity Enhancement Project (MUCEP) in improving public transportation planning for Metro Manila, including coordination among relevant agencies to be spearheaded by the DOTC.

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through the CY 2011 Transport Studies Fund, intends to apply the sum of **Forty One Million Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Pesos (Php 41,050,464.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of consulting services for the MUCEP Survey. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the Financial proposals.

2. The DOTC now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the MUCEP Survey. Interested consultants must acquire the eligibility documents after payment of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and submit their eligibility documents on or before 11 October 2012, 1:00PM, at DOTC Multi-Purpose Hall, 14th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Brgy. Ubi-Ubi, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

3. The BAC will draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted Expression of Interest and Eligibility Documents and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The shortlist shall consist of five (5) prospective bidders who will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

   i. Prior Experience and Track Record - 40%
   ii. Qualification of Personnel to be Assigned - 30%
   iii. Current Workload Relative to Capacity - 10%

4. Should less than the required number apply for eligibility and shortlisting pass the eligibility check, and/or pass the minimum score required for shortlisting, the BAC shall consider the same. Further, applicants must obtain a minimum weighted average of "SEVENTY (70) POINTS" to qualify for shortlisting.

- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184. Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.
- The DOTC shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method. The DOTC shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating for the evaluation of bids shall be provided to the invited bids to Bidders.
- The contract shall be completed within six (6) months from the date of the Notice to Proceed.
- The DOTC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or bidders.

*The pre-bid conference shall serve as an opportunity for clarifications or explanations regarding the Bidding Documents. Bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to ensure that they fully understand the Bidding Documents. Non-attendance of a prospective bidder shall in no way prejudice its bid, provided that the bidder has purchased the Bidding Documents.

For further information, please refer to:
Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales
Assistant Secretary for Procurement and Chairperson, BAC Secretariat
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 113, 14th Floor, The Columbia Tower
Brgy. Ubi-Ubi, Ortigas Avenue
1555 Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. (+632) 654-7720
Facsimile No. (+632) 654-7720
E-mail Address: bac.secretariat@dotc.gov.ph
Website: www.dotc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

P14.95 MILLION CONSTRUCTION OF LUBANG AIRPORT RUNWAY (MINDORO OCCIDENTAL)

The P14.95-M project entails the asphalting of runway, i.e., 270m. W = 18m. It also includes the removal of deteriorated asphalt pavement, asphalt transition, and runway centerline markings.

Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 14,995,091.34
Issuance of Bid Documents	4 October 2012 - 25 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	11 October 2012, 1:30PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	25 October 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	Php 25,000.00

P2 MILLION REHABILITATION OF BOAC LTO DISTRICT OFFICE (MARINDUQUE)

FOR BIDDING: The P2.0-M project entails the completion and repair of the one (1) - storey LTO District Office building with a total floor area of 150.00 sqm. and site development with an area of 1,444.00 sqm.

Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 1,995,202.70
Issuance of Bid Documents	4 October 2012 - 23 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	11 October 2012, 2:00PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	23 October 2012, 9:30 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	Php 1,000.00

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount indicated above only to the DOTC Cashier. They may also inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain additional information from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Unit 113, 14th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and from **http://www.dotc.gov.ph**, provided that the bidders pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
- Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184 and the Bidding Documents.
- The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on the date and time indicated above at the DOTC Conference Room, 14th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City, which shall be open to all interested parties.
- The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:
Asst. Sec. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales
Overall Head, BAC Secretariat
Address: **Unit 113, 14th Flr., Columbia Tower, Brgy. Ubi-Ubi, Ortigas Ave.**
1550 Mandaluyong City , Philippines
Tel Nos.: (+632) 654-7720
(+632) 737-7960 loc. 221
Facsimile No.: (+632) 654-7723
E-mail Address: **bac@dotcmis.gov.ph**
Website: **www.dotc.gov.ph**

Postings from **4 October 2012** at the **PhilGEPS, DOTC** and **LTO and LTMS Websites & Bulletin Boards**, and advertised on the **Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star** and the **Manila Bulletin** on **9 October 2012.**

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

*The pre-bid conference shall serve as an opportunity for clarifications or explanations regarding the Bidding Documents. Bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to ensure that they fully understand the Bidding Documents. Non-attendance of a prospective bidder shall in no way prejudice its bid, provided that the bidder has purchased the Bidding Documents.

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More groups ask SC to zap cybercrime law

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE groups have asked the Supreme Court to nullify the new Cybercrime Prevention Act.

The new petitioners include the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, the Philippine Press Institute, the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, and individual journalists asked the tribunal to stop the government from implementing Republic Act No. 10175, which took effect yesterday.

They also asked the court to hold oral arguments on the case and to stop the Department of Budget and Management from releasing the P50-million allocated for the law's implementation.

"In this case of first impression, this court is asked to rule on a statute that, if allowed to stand, will not look favorably at brigade against media workers and practitioners," said the media groups, which were represented by lawyers from the Free Legal Assistance Group.

"It is a law that unduly restricts the rights and freedoms of netizens and journalists and, more so, an unfettered power of investigation, studying, understanding and violating," they said.

This was the ninth petition against the cybercrime law. Yesterday morning, members of the Asian Human Rights Center also asked the court to nullify provisions of the law for being unconstitutional.

OFWs, too

Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and migrants' rights groups have joined protests against the law, saying it will have an adverse effect on the freedom of speech and expression and access to information by 15 million OFWs.

"Social media, through social networking sites, help people in connecting [Filipinos] abroad to the homeland and to other Filipino communities around the world because it is real-time" and accessible to them, imposing a martial law is unnecessary to the curtailment of the access of information of overseas Filipinos," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, president of Migrante International Inc.-plus.

"More importantly, social media are also instrumental in aiding overseas Filipinos, especially migrant workers in distress, in bringing their plight and messages to the public's and the government's attention," Bragas-Regalado said.

Punishment without trial

In their petition, the media groups said the law should be scrapped for being a bill of attainder—a legislative act that inflicts punishment without trial—and for violating the freedom of expression guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution.

They added that the law also violated the constitutional guarantee against double jeopardy or being charged twice for the same offense.

"In providing for a prosecution for cybercrime without prejudice to any liability for any violation of the Revised Penal Code or special laws, Sections 7 and 6 of the new law don't violate the prohibition against double jeopardy," the media groups said.

They said the cybercrime law also violated constitutional provisions on due process and equal protection under the law.

"The blanket exercise of penalties across the board by one degree for all felonies and crimes under Section 6 of the new law[, regardless of the nature of the felony or crime] punishes those of relative minor public policy set forth in Section 2, discriminates against those who use ICT [information and communication technology]," the media groups said.

Take down provision

The petitioners also assailed the law's "undue delegation of judicial powers" to the secretary of justice, the Philippine National Police, and the National Bureau of Investigation.

They cited in particular the provision giving the secretary of justice the power to "take down" online content deemed to be in violation of the law.

"The take down clause under Section 19 violates due process as well as equal protection, for it empowers the secretary of justice to order, properly without due process, it may allow an executive determination of what should be a judicial finding and, thus, on an extremely low standard," the media groups said.

"Effectively, the secretary of justice is a one-person tribunal, simultaneously for the constitutional guarantee of due process and every action of fundamental fairness," they added.

The petitioners said the power to "restrict or block access to computer data" amounted to a violation of property, which is secured by the constitutional guarantee.

"Sensibly, it is also a power that can only be exercised after the issuance of a warrant," they added.

The petitioners alleged that the law violated the right to privacy of communication and correspondence as "it allows the real-time collection of online traffic data and effectively surveillance without a warrant."

With a report from Tina G. Santos

Casiño shows up at Comelec wet, in shorts

From page A1

pants, rather than Chez Antonio Tiffanys II and Johnny Rep. Jesus Edgardo Angara signed up for the new annual an hour-and-a-half after Gardner filed his COC, 10 minutes.

The lone candidate of Bakdaglang Kalilay on agrikulturalismo (Bakdaglang), a coalition of progressive political parties in the Philippines, Casiño acknowledged that, among millions clutching their quiet political groupings, that the Liberal Party-led administration coalition was the former Nacionalista Alliance (NAP) is a challenge.

"But we have to take the challenge because the NAP and the LP coalition, as you can see, is composed of old faces with the same tired manner. It's time to have someone new in the Senate," Casiño told reporters.

Run to Comelec

Casiño, 43, immediately assumed center stage during the approaching Tropical Storm "Maon" early yesterday morning and went to the Lyceta Park to the Comelec headquarters, where the immediate hotels rushed to give him emergency apparel as he joined the weekend rave.

"I think this is the first time that you've seen a candidate register in short pants," Casiño said. "We're telling people to mark the rules of the campaign. We want to prove that a candidate who represents the common people can also run and win in the Senate."

Casiño explained that his early start was designed to show that he can be the Senate because that's not it and that it signified that he was representing ordinary people.

"It will be a campaign of platforms, issues and not so much of personalities or guns, goons and gold," he said.

Support from grassroots

For support, he said he was banking on Bakdaglang's broad grassroots machinery.

Outside the Comelec office, his supporters from Makabayan, whose presidential candidate chosen him as standard bearer came to a rhythm kept up by drummers.

Not long after their departure, Angara's support base, armed, continuing the festival-mood here.

Political dynasties

Angara defended his family's legacy explaining that he was not a political dynasty.

"I am a dynasty but the difference is that in that we have a legacy . . . compared to the other dynasties," he said.

Accompanying him was his sister, Sen. Edgardo Angara, his ardent youngest son.

Political dynasties, he said, are not welcome.

"Let us also look at their qualifications," he said.

Battle threat

Tiffanys put up a brave front when told that Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, one of the leaders of UNA, had threatened to thwart his campaign for reelection.

"In consultations in the month, last out ahead of him. The Filipino people have to be in charge [underlined] [in] Senate Republic Room," Tiffanys said.

At press time, Tiffanys accepted with the 18 last month over a bill that would double Comelec's fee to run for president, the senate has coming to 8 with congressional bill still.

The bill raised to pass in time for the 2013 congressional election.

WHITE QUEST Independent senatorial candidate Rep. Teddy Casiño of the Makabayan Partylist shows his certificate of candidacy at Comelec headquarters in Intramuros, Manila, on Wednesday. AFP/CESAR RAMIREZ

No stopping Padaca from Comelec job, says Palace

From page A1

Padaca, 44, is facing arrest on graft charges, which she said were politically motivated. She has refused to post bail in protest of the way the case was decided against her. But with her new appointment, Padaca said she may now need to post bail.

Padaca is accused of awarding to a non-government organization in 2009, while still Iloilo governor, a contract to manage a P28-million credit facility for rice farmers, without a public bidding. She has argued that bidding was not required, and the provincial was not adversely affected by the deal.

Lacierda said that contrary to some observations, Padaca's candidacy in the May 2010 gubernatorial race did not bar her from serving in the Comelec.

The Constitution states that the chairman and six commissioners of the poll body must not have been candidates for any elective position in the "immediately preceding elections," among other requirements.

According to Lacierda, the immediately preceding elections were the October 2011 barangay polls, not the May 2010 elections, hence Padaca could not be disqualified from the post.

"She was not a candidate for the barangay elections. The Constitution does not say it should be a national election. So when the law does not distinguish, we should not distinguish," he said.

He said Padaca was very much qualified for the position.

"She's a woman of integrity. We believe she can supply the vibrancy, have an objective manner and she will advance also the cause and reforms in the Comelec," he said.

GMA runs again despite ailments, plunder cases

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Despite her medical conditions and various graft and plunder charges hounding her, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will seek a second term as representative of Pampanga's second district.

Her eldest son, Jose Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, filed her certificate of candidacy at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) provincial office at the capitol grounds here.

"For the 2010 (For GMA)," Mikey said in his prepared documents to the city's Lydia Bangilisan, Pampanga election supervisor. These included a certificate of nomination from Lakas-CMD and a letter through which Arroyo authorized her son to file the COC on her behalf.

Mikey did not say why his mother could not file her COC herself. When asked if she was sick, he said important that he was not his mother's decision.

Five of the signers in the district accompanied Mikey, interviewed separately later, Mayor Edwin Santos—Bacolor; Representative Pablo Paredes—Lubao; Yolanda Pineda—Guagua; Lilia Lazatin—Sasmuan; and Candelaria de la Cruz (Pono) and they would campaign for Arroyo.

Asked how his mother's health condition, part on her campaign and work in the House of Representatives should she be reelected, Paredes said, "Yolanda Pineda (Gloria's) will cross the bridge when we get there."

No other member of the family came. Like Mikey, his brother, lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo, is a registered voter of Lubao.

Gov. Lilia Pineda, Arroyo's political ally, did not join Mikey because she was attending a

FOR MOTHER Mikey Arroyo signing documents for his mother's certificate of candidacy

budget hearings on Wednesday afternoon.

Mikey was blurred their home and his close friends to welcome Mikey and other officials. It was raining but some 50 supporters stayed on. They all wore shirts printed with "I Love GMA."

Arroyo, who served as president for nine years, is the first president to win a lower position after her term ended in Malacañang.

A year in her first term in Congress was spent in detention at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City and Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City due to a degenerative bone ailment and elevated calcium ions. She was freed after posting bail, resuming her duties in Pampanga on July 27 this year.

While Arroyo showered the second district with projects during her presidency, she still managed to deliver several negative results despite her stint in education, Department of Budget and Management deputy director.

A day before the filing of her COC, Arroyo asked the Sandiganbayan to drop some if there was sufficient basis in the Office of the Ombudsman to file plunder charges against her for the alleged misuse of P366 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds from 2008 to 2010.

As of Wednesday, no candidate, either supported by a political party or an independent, had filed a COC to challenge Arroyo's reelection bid.

In Bocos Norte, the Mayorans and their allies should expect a rebellion in the park as they run for reelection on their second terms with yet an known challengers.

Before filing their COCs on Wednesday, Gov. Jose Mayoran and candidates on her slate gathered at the Bocos Norte Gymnasium at Barangay City Inc. the Gold Bandwagon kicking of local officials running under the Bocos Bocos Bocks Unidos. The Mayorans' Bikoning Bagong Lipunan had combined with the Nacionalista Party.

Bocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos, the governor's mother, filed her COC ahead of the group when she went to the Comelec office at 10 a.m.

Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, who joined the Mayorans' ticket in his bid for reelection, further is expected to file his COC on Friday.

Further earlier told reporters that he was surprised when Chevylle Fariñas, Association of Barangay Captains president in Laoag City and her COC to replace her husband, outgoing Laoag Mayor Michael Fariñas, the lawmaker's nephew.

Representative Fariñas failed to hide his disappointment when Chevylle filed her candidacy without the family reaching a consensus as to who will run for the seat.

"It's like they're fighting each other. I have closed all avenues for negotiations. I'm still here until Friday to file. There was no agreement [among the family members] as to [Chevylle's candidacy]," he said. With reports from Cristine Avendaño and Jhoanna Ballaran, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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PILOT CORPORATION

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6657, as amended, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is mandated to cover, under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the following landholdings:

REGION II - CAGAYAN

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	VILLAGAS DEVELOPMENT CORP.	7th FLOOR BENAVIDEZ TOWER, 8737 VILLAGAS STREET, MAKATI CITY	7126	1-D		15.4000	A	TUGUEGARAO CITY

REGION II - ISABELA

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	ESCUDERO, CATHERINE T.	MANILA	117522			23.4000	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
2	LAMANDE, MARIE	MANILA	91668			10.4000	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
3	MARTINEZ, ROSE	MANILA	124690			3.2287	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
			124691	1-A-2-C	10,000	3.0000	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
			124692	1-C	200,000	3.0000	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
4	RURAL BANK OF SAN AGUSTIN	CABU, MACCA	114751			10.0000	CA	SAN MARIANO, ISABELA
TOTAL						42.0287		

REGION III - PAMPANGA

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	TOPS SCHOOL INC. (REGINA, BC-PHILIPPINE SCHOOL)		22134	2&3-D		1.0612	I	APALIT, PAMPANGA
TOTAL			22134	2&3-D		1.0612		APALIT, PAMPANGA
						2.1224		

REGION III - NUEVA ECIJA (SOUTH)

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	87, 87597, 87596, 87594	16	[illegible]	2.5000	CA	[illegible]
					[illegible]	0.1801	CA	[illegible]
			87, 87596	17	[illegible]	9.4000	CA	[illegible]
TOTAL						12.0801		

REGION III - MASINLOC/ZAMBALES

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,538	1056		112.0971	I	[illegible]

REGION III - CABANATUAN/NUEVA ECIJA

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	SPS. BENJAMIN A. MERCADO & MERCELLA A. ACERO JR.	[illegible]	2,567, 2,568	1&2	[illegible]	10.0000	I	[illegible]
TOTAL						10.0000		

REGION IV - ALAMINOS

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	I	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	I	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	I	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	I	[illegible]
TOTAL						[illegible]		

REGION V - CAMARINES SUR - A

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	SPS. BENITO, RUBI L. DIAZ & ERNESTO	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	I	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
			[illegible]			[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
			[illegible]			[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
TOTAL						[illegible]		

REGION V - CAMARINES SUR - B

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
TOTAL						[illegible]		

REGION V - MASBATE

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]
TOTAL						[illegible]		

REGION V - SORSOGON

	NAME OF LANDOWNER	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF LANDOWNER	TCT/OCT NO.	LOT NO.	SURVEY NO.	AREA (has.)	LAND USE	LOCATION OF LANDHOLDING (Municipality, Province)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CA	[illegible]

2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Philex mine spill massive, say Church probers

By DJ Yap

THE MINE spill in Benguet involving the country's biggest gold producer, Philex Mining Corp., leaked "6,500 percent more water than the 1996 Marcopper accident in Marinduque" province that left the Boac River "biologically dead," a fact-finding mission has found.

The 2012 Philex mine spill "is massive," investigators from the National Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, and the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines (CCCP) said in a 26-page report on their mission.

They compared the amount of sediment released into bodies of water in the Philex and the Marcopper spills using information from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

The mission noted that the MGB estimated the Philex mine spill to be 20.6 million metric tons.

This "is 1,000 percent higher than the Marcopper accident in Boac, Marinduque, of 1.6 million metric tons," the mission said.

But MGB Director Leo Jasareno said his agency had yet to complete its impact assessment. "We want to be scientific about this," Jasareno said. "We don't want to underestimate it."

The spill at Philex Padcal mine in Benguet began on Aug. 1 following days of intense rains spawned by two typhoons.

Michael Toledo, Philex senior vice president for corporate affairs, said in a phone interview yesterday that government and independent metallurgists had found the fish and water quality in areas near the company's Padcal mine to be safe.

"There has been an ongoing study for about six weeks now and the data says the fish and waters are safe," Toledo said.

"Metallurgists and other experts from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the independent firm Ecowise are on site right now," Paguirigan said.

Toledo said the request for an extension was "normal and usually granted, like in the courts."

Fernando Mejeiras, Philex senior vice president for finance, said in a report that the company had "controlled" the leak and was set to resume the flow sought by the DENR.

The flooding took from the breach in Padcal has been "ultimately contained" with the plugging of the sinkhole with concrete spheres of various sizes that also act as filtering medium to the small volume of water that continues to flow from the hole, 90 percent of which is clean, Mejeiras said.

"This has allowed the pooling of concrete to backhead the underground tunnel of Portals 3, which, when completed, would eventually seal the tunnel and stop any level of tailings leakage from the pond," Mejeiras said.

River cleanup

Philex officials informed Benguet town officials on Tuesday that the company would now undertake a comprehensive clean-up operation on Benguet's river system.

In a clandestine report presented to the league council, Philex officials explained the conditions that led to the accident at Padcal, which affected Balog Creek and a portion of the damaged dam, said Eduardo Annan, Philex legal officer.

During interviews with Agno River, which flows toward Pangasinan,

A damaged underground sinkhole which channeled runoff rainwater out of the tailings dam, triggered the Aug. 1 and had been sealed, Philex said.

The leaks were first detected when water level in the dam began to slowly drop as the heavy rains dumped by the storm.

The sinkhole was developed in to a sinkhole, which mine engineers plugged on Sept. 13 by inserting a concrete and steel ball 9 meters in diameter.

Marcopper spill

On March 24, 1996, Marcopper Mining Corp. accidentally spilled 4.4 million cubic tailings into the Boac River after a tunnel in the company's Tapian pit collapsed. The spill was considered the worst mining disaster in the Philippines.

After 16 years of the [Marcopper] accident, the Boac River is still dead. Recent studies showed that canadian contains more than seven times the high amount of copper, manganese, lead and zinc," the fact-finding mission said in its report, quoting CCCP's technical scientist Rubelisa Godilano.

But the MGB's Jasareno said the comparison might not be fair. He said he would not yet draw any conclusions just from comparing waste discharges from the Philex and the Boac copper incidents.

In its recommendations, the mission and an immediate and impartial investigation was needed to assess the full impact of the Philex mine spill, as its effects might be worse than reported.

Jasareno said the mission presented its findings to him recently, but added that he could not yet act on any of its recommendations.

"What we can do at this point is to take all these new information into consideration," he said.

The fact-finding mission conducted its work from Sept. 16 to Sept. 17, talking to local government officials, engineers, scientists, and villagers in the affected areas in Benguet.

Among other things, the independent mission concluded that the integrity and safety of Philex' tailings pond 3 (TP3) structure were "questionable."

Engineer Virgilio Antonio, manager of the Tailings Pond 3, was commissioned in 1995. With a life span of 16-20 years, it should have been decommissioned as early as 2010, especially because the dam crest would be raised for the projected elevation of 600 meters above sea level," the report said.

Fault lines

It also said the Philex mining area of operation was "criss-crossed by fault lines."

"The local installer of the fault lines are the Abian and Sta. Fe faults. Thus, it is not surprising for Philex gold and/or copper production to be associated with geohazard, like vir-k-ris-ks-ion-s-and/liquefaction activity," it said.

"This already occurred during the Philex mining accident in 1992, when the foundation of the TP3 Tailings Pond 2[collapsed and reportedly disgorged 80,000 metric tons of mine waste affecting huge tracts of prime agricultural lands in Pangasinan," the report said.

The report also questioned a claim by Philex that chemicals used in ore processing were biodegradable, and that the amounts of reagents (substances causing chemical reactions) carried with the tailings during actual operations were "exremely smaller negligible."

"Negligible? How much negligible? How much kilograms of reagents are used for every ton of ore they are processing?" the mission said.

Metals used

Philex, the report said, also needs to disclose the associated heavy metals in the Padcal production. "This is very important. If there is not, it is assured the others heavy metal effluents include lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, sulphur, etc.," it added.

It further noted that Philex proceeded with its construction of its classic tailings pond, "without the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC), "without securing the necessary building and safety permits and the payment of accumulated taxes to the LGUs."

The mission also cited environment damage and livelihood losses resulting from the Philex leaks.

"The MGB declared that anything discharged through the Agno River goes to San Roque Dam in Binalonan, Pangasinan. The Balog (Creek) and Agno River are heavily polluted. Fishers and residents complain of lost fishing and mining grounds, of low-grade earnings, and the loss of safe food and water," it said.

Another concern was the safety of fish stock in San Roque Dam, the mission said.

No harmful chemicals

But Philex said that an independent scientist and metallurgist laboratory reported that no harmful chemicals had been detected in a fish sample taken from the waters near the Padcal mine.

In a report following every, Smithville said there was no detection of cadmium, lead and arsenic in the tilapia fish it analyzed in early September.

The yardstick used for detection in the report is 0.01 mg/kg for cadmium, 0.30 mg/kg for lead, and 0.005 mg/kg for arsenic. Philex said in a statement.

Small-scale miners

Philex said it had not used mercury in its milling operations, although Sumitville detected the element at 0.04 mg/kg, which is below the detection limit of 0.37 mg/kg in the fish sample taken from Ambuklao Dam, Benguet.

Metallurgists at Philex said the presence of mercury could be due to a number of small-scale and illegal miners who have operated gold panning in Benguet.

Although no one using mercury, Philex said it also had not applied any harmful amounts of chemicals used in its operations at Padcal. With reports from Rita T. Gadiano in Manila, Vincent Cabreza, Yolanda Stuart, Gabriel Cardinoza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Hagedorn job hunting in Metro; Villafuertes free-for-all in CamSur

LEGAZPI CITY—Of the candidates filing their candidacy papers yesterday, the names Hagedorn in Palawan and Villafuerte in Camarines Sur stood out.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn was with his wife, Irene, when she filed her certificate of candidacy (COC) to run for mayor of the city.

He left for Manila almost immediately and turned up at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) office in Intramuros in Ilio-Ilio candidacy papers as an independent candidate for senator.

"I will look for a job in Manila," he told reporters in Puerto Princesa where some of whom his political rivals were.

In the Comelec office, Hagedorn told reporters that he was initially invited by deposed President Joseph Estrada to join the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) senatorial slate but had to decline.

No feelings hurt

"So that there will be no feelings hurt and because I am friends with everyone, I chose to remain as independent," he said.

"I have no enemies. I have wanted to win but I don't want to get hurt," he said.

Retired Gen. Ramon Montaño, a former Constitutional chief and "aging participant" of the first EDSA revolution, is also gunning for the Senate. "An operational soldier and policeman who has been deployed to political leaders."

Claiming to be a member of the Liberal Party he said he was running as an independent because "I do not know enough political pedigree" to tailor up to the ruling party.

In Camarines Sur, the fight for political dominance of the province officially kicked off with a Villafuerte grandfather and grandson squaring off for the governorship.

Grandpa vs grandson

Rep. Luis Villafuerte filed his COC for governor. His grandson, Miguel or Migz, filed his COC for the same post.

Migz arrived at the Comelec provincial office in Ilo Ilo his COC with his father, Gov. Unay Villafuerte, a late former governor, who is running for representative of the second district.

Actor Aga Muhlach followed in a separate vehicle. The actor, who is running for representative in the fourth district, has yet to file his COC, however.

Migz, who is running for governor under the Nacionalista Party, said Villafuertes "have served the people in their own time in different periods and that it is now his time as 67 percent of the population consist of the youth."

"I am determined to run for governor. I am the fourth generation Villafuertes and my great grandfather is Mariano Villafuerte Jr. who was also a governor. It is now the time of Migz or Libay Jr. to serve the people," Migz said in a crowd of supporters.

He said he will visit all of the province's 1,030 barangays and 35 municipalities until January 2013 and revisit the 400 barangays that he had already visited.

Luis Villafuerte said his grandson, Migz, was only being used by his father, Libay. Luis said he would make a comeback as governor to "reclaim the elegance of the Office of the Governor."

He is running under the Nacionalista Party ticket. Luis's wife, Hella Ilelo Villafuerte, also filed her COC, running to fill the third district seat that Luis is vacating.

William Felix "Wimpy" Fernandez also filed his COC for representative of the fourth district. He was accompanied by his brother, mayoral bride, and father, Deputy Speaker Salvador Arnillo, who is serving his last term. Wimpy will be running against the actor Muhlach.

Sabel Bibiko, a three-term mayor of Milaor town, also filed her COC for representative of the second district under the ruling Liberal Party. Accompanying him was Coni Rabaria, the widow of the late Jose Rabaria, who a provincial chair of the LP in Camarines Sur. Bibiko will be running against Unay Villafuerte.

In Albay, too, Joey Salceda, filed his COC under the LP for a third and last term. Wearing the yellow symbol of President Aquino's party Salceda filed his COC with Joey Salceda Jr. who will run for governor and his Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members' lineup.

Laguna politics

In Laguna, district leader and party-list Hamer member Rodolfo Castillo filed lawyer Joel Ilesia Duero as his municipal candidate for Calamba under the banner of the Makabayan party.

Rep. Jesse Mark Chipeco filed his COC for mayor of Calamba while former governor Joe Chipeco Jr.

Rep. Edgardo "Egay" San Luis, a son of the late Laguna governor Felicisimo San Luis filed his COC for governor and will run against Agnes Zapanta, daughter of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

In the fourth district, lawyers Antonio Carolina filed his COC and will challenge Benjamin Agapito "Bo Bitay" Dimaguila for governor.

In Batangas, re-lectionist Vice Governor Jose Antonio Leviste Jr. filed his COC under the LP. Reports from Redempto Anda, Jaime Escandor Jr., Mar Arguelles, Romualdo Punzo and Marvyn Cortez Sandoval in Naga City; Jonathan Lanuza, and Jaypee R. De Mesa in Manila

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday - October 4, 2012
26th Week in Ordinary Time
Francis of Assisi

First Reading: Job 19:21-27

Have pity, my friends, have pity, for God's hand has struck me!
Why do you hound me as God does?
Will you never be satisfied with my flesh?
Oh, that my words were written, or recorded in a memory with an iron tool, a chisel or engraved forever on rock!
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and he, the last, will take his stand on earth: I will be given behind my skin, and in my flesh I shall see God.
I shall see him for myself, and my eyes behold him, and no other. How my heart yearns!

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set out without purse or bag or sandals, and do not stop to the homes of those you know.

"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'May there be peace in this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace you wish will settle on him; if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

"When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'

"But in any town where you are not welcome, go to the marketplace and proclaim: 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off and leave with you. But know this well: the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the Judgment Day for Sodom than for that town."

Reflection

The Christian Gospel proclaims that the deepest wisdom is hidden in suffering. It is very paradoxical. But true teaching is full of paradox. The English word "suffer" originally meant "to allow." Through the ages the pain of life to teach me. It is natural to try to avoid pain, but when it comes my way, I should let it teach me. Otherwise I will develop a hard outer layer of insensitivity. When we see people who have done the utmost to help others, we say, "Suffering has made this kind person that he is." It is their experience of suffering that has done us. Life does not make people hard; it can be shaping life that makes them hard.

Group slams 'scandalous' dynasties

By Jerome Aning

A CIBIL society group yesterday slammed the "flawed" expansion of political dynasties in the country.

Noting the number of sons, daughters, wives, cousins and other relatives of entrenched politicians in the Senate for next year's elections, the Quezon City-based Center for People Power Empowerment in Governance (Cenpeg) said this did not augur well for democracy.

"Definitely alarming today is the entrenchment of the system of political dynasties on a high-to and more blatant scale, making the fair representation of the large majority of Filipinos even more elusive."

Cenpeg criticized the unabridged duos formed by the ruling Liberal Party and its rival United Nationalist Alliance. In particular, Cenpeg cited the Cayetanos, Revillas, Estradas and Magsaysays families, who each might have two representatives in the Senate. Add to this the relatives of President Aquino—a young cousin and an aunt.

"What is definitely emerging as a standalone reality is that political dynasties are more blatant and active today."

Cenpeg warned that the people are more and more aware of the brought by political dynasties and are slowly expressing their distaste towards the system.

"The current national and media uproar against the blatant and conservative display of oligarchic power should lead to positive and constructive steps toward people empowerment," the group said.

Pilipino—Bilateral relationships and the corporate interests of politicians in Congress will also reflect in the type of laws that would be passed.

"Expect the present and future congresses to enact more laws that will favor the oligarchic and corporate elite," Cenpeg said.

A governmental that is dominated by oligarchs, the group added, will not equalize opportunities for growth and development existing in the vast majority of people, the group contended.

"Conditions to form 'zones of discontent' are more than ripe and the administration of Sen. Aquino, himself a beneficiary of this culture of political patronage," the group added.

The center said self-preservation and expansion of political dynasties in the Senate is also being replicated in the House of Representatives and in the various local government units (LGUs).

It does not help that in a rare chance that a nonestablished politician wins an election, he or she begins to create a new dynasty, Cenpeg lamented.

"The concentration, consolidation, and consolidation of political dynasties over the past [16] years serve to the continuing inequitousness of feudal politics, the absence of any form of real democracy, and the continued powerlessness of a vast marginalized majority in the Philippines, the group said.

Gov't set to roll out $5.5-B infra projects

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has lined up more than a dozen major infrastructure projects for the next four years with a budget requirement of over $5.5 billion, according to a DPWH report furnished the Inquirer.

At least five of the public-private partnership, or PPP projects are "ready for roll-out in 2012, and 2013," the report said.

The projects are the 7.35-kilometer Ninoy Aquino International Airport Expressway, 13.4-km South Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Expressway (NAIA-SLEx) Connector elevated Expressway, Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3, 36-km Cavite-Laguna Expressway and Phase 2 of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road.

Other PPP projects include the C-6 Expressway and Global Link; C-6 Extension; Kennon Road and Marcos Highway improvement; rehabilitation of Daang Hari-Sucat-Alabang Diversion Highway connecting Quezon, Cavite-to Metro and Carmelray Industrial Park-Calamba-Los Baños Toll Expressway; R-7 Expressway and the NLEX-Subic Expressway in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

Under the PPP Bridges Project, the department "will implement a pilot run in Luzon, where 139 bridges will be replaced by new ones," the report said. "By tapping private sector resources and skills in the design and construction of various types of bridges, the project is expected to improve and provide direct access to and between outlying barangays, municipalities and cities, thereby facilitating the transport of goods and services."

Later this year, the DPWH also plans to start constructing an additional 9,800 classrooms nationwide to fill up the 66,000-classroom backlog of the Department of Education (DepEd).

Under the BTO-3-in-One project, the contractor will "undertake the financing, design and construction of a package of classrooms. After completion, the contractor will turn them over to the DepEd, which shall pay the contractor or the project financier their total investments plus a reasonable rate of return on an agreed schedule."

The DPWH said the Subic-Tarlac-Pangasinan, segment or Phase 1 of another PPP project, the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Toll Expressway (TPLEx), is 84.6 percent complete. It is expected to be completed by May 2015.

The 88.6-km and two-lane TPLEx, which costs $865.5 million, also covers two viaducts, eight interchanges, two control toll plazas, 12 bridges and 43 underpasses.

Another PPP project, the construction of the 4.4-km Daang Hari-SLEx Link, is scheduled to start later this year. The toll road will pass through the New Bilibid Prison reservation, containing Reception Center with the Classification Diagnostic Center through Susana Heights. The project costs P40.6 million, P686.4 million of which will be the government's counterpart fund.

Of the total public investment requirement of P696.91-billion, at least P686.04billion is earmarked for the highways sector, said the DPWH.

By 2014, the agency aims to pave all existing unpaved roads out of the 15,872-km of national arterial roads, and by 2016, pave all existing unpaved roads out of the 13,370-km of national secondary roads.

By the same year, the DPWH also targets the rehabilitation of 38,392 stations of national bridges, widening of 32,256 m of existing bridges, construction of 16,255 m of new bridges and replacement of 19,735 m of damaged bridges.

ADB ups PH growth outlook this year

From page A1

FOR 2013, however, ADB expects the country to expand at a slower pace of 5 percent. This was achieved on expectations that demand from industrialized countries for exports from the Philippines would be weak as due to prolonged economic challenges.

The favorable growth performance of the country does not mean absence of economic problems, said Nesmy Isin, ADB country director for the Philippines.

The key challenge is to make its economic growth result in poverty reduction, he said.

"Despite growth, poverty incidence in the Philippines rose from 2003 to 2009. That is a cause for concern," he said. Poverty rose about at 24.9 percent in 2003 and 26.5 percent in 2009.

Other Asian countries

Isin said the country must implement policies that will attract investments to ensure that can provide jobs for the masses, especially those who do not have college education.

The bank cut most of its 2012 and 2013 growth estimates for developing Asia on Wednesday as a slump in global demand weighs on the region's powerhouses China and India and on its other export-dependent economies.

The ADB cut its gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for China by nearly 1 percentage point to 7.7 percent from the previous 8.6 percent, warning that risks to the world's second largest economy were likely to intensify in the short run given bleak global demand and the uncertain outlook for its largest trading partners.

But it believed China would still be able to avoid a hard economic landing, given that policymakers in Beijing have considerable scope for further stimulus measures.

Euro zone, US woes

"The global slump in demand, especially from Europe, will remain a serious drag on

JAIN

growth in the near term," ADB chief economist Changyong Rhee said in a news release.

"The government has the means to cushion the economy from global turmoil, however. Its strong fiscal position, monetary influence and supplementary policy measures should ensure a soft economic landing, but it needs to expedite its efforts to swiftly the creation of growth and strengthen structural reforms for inclusive growth."

The euro zone's unresolved sovereign debt crisis and the United States' looming fiscal cliff were the biggest risks to the regional growth outlook, with Asia's most open economies particularly vulnerable to spillover effects, the ADB warned.

The risk of capital reversals in capital flows to developing Asia also remained a concern, although the region's capital markets have not shown excessive volatility, it added.

Still, most countries in the region have enough room to use monetary and fiscal policy tools if necessary to protect domestic growth, with inflation expected to be lower than earlier anticipated this year and the next, the ADB said.

The region must brace itself for a prolonged period of moderate expansion after years of rapid growth, the bank said.

Developing Asia—comprised of 45 countries in Central, East, South, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific—is now forecast to grow 6.1 percent this year and 6.7 percent in 2013.

The figures are substantially down from April estimates of 6.8 percent and 7.2 percent respectively, and last year's 7.1 percent expansion.

Slowdowns

As China struggles with slower investment and weaker demand at home and abroad, the ADB also cut its 2012 growth forecast for the country to 8.1 percent from the previous 8.7 percent.

Growth in India is expected to hit 5.6 percent and 6.7 percent in 2012 and 2013, weaker than previous forecasts of 7 percent and 7.5 percent, respectively, as it battles persistently high inflation, a large fiscal deficit and weaker consumption.

East Asia will remain the region's locked-growing area, although it will not be immune to the overall deceleration in the region, the ADB said.

The bank kept its 2012 growth forecast of 5.2 percent for Southeast Asia, lifted its past by recovery efforts in Thailand from last year's flooding, and higher state spending in Malaysia and the Philippines.

But it trimmed its growth outlook for Singapore and Vietnam as slowdowns in the global downturn wears on. Indonesia, the region's largest economy, reported on Monday that exports and imports fell the most in three years in August.

The ADB urged governments to diversify their growth drivers and capitalize on its booming service industries, as seen in India and the Philippines, to sustain domestic growth during times of prolonged weakness in external demand.

The development lender said policies such as education reforms, improved infrastructures and easier regulations geared toward boosting the services sector—have contributing nearly half of the region's GDP and employing 24 percent of developing Asia's workers in 2009—would help lift productivity and promote inclusive growth. With reports from Michelle V. Ramos and Reuters

For De La Salle University, these are at the very core of its unrelenting efforts to help shape people who can make a difference in our country.

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OPINION

Misery

THE MAY 2013 vote is the 10th national election in the post-Marcos era, and in terms of political dynasties—which the 1987 Constitution supposedly prohibits—it is indisputably the worst.

We can plumb the new lows of dynastic politics by looking at the burgeoning Senate slates of the two main political coalitions. A son (rumored, despite years in the House of Representatives) is seeking to join his father in the Philippines' most exclusive club. Another congressman (not without controversy himself) is seeking to join a stepbrother (a search suddenly made even more humble through a strategic name change). A former member of the House is seeking to replace her husband), a former presidential candidate. A brother is seeking to join his sister in the Senate a second time (they have spent three years together in the chamber, in which their own father had served). Not least, an actor and a cousin of the President, who himself served three years in the Senate, are seeking their own 6-year mandates.

EDITORIAL

While we suppose most voting-age Filipinos have a few candidates for the Senate they are genuinely enthused about, we think it is fair to say their many Filipinos, whether they are eligible to vote or not, are dismayed, even distressed, by this turn of events. Two years after an election gave a new President an overwhelming mandate for "reforms," the use of family connections and resources to pursue limited political purposes—keeping a seat "within the family," using a seat as stepping-stone to higher political office, renovating to the comfort zone provided by familiar politicians—has reached a new level of brazenness.

This sorry reality is reflected in the local elections, too. Or perhaps it is also accurate to say that national politics is merely the local kind, writ large. The Jalosjos family for example, is consuming control of the three Zamboanga provinces—a fact even more startling considering that the family patriarch spent years in jail for statutory rape. But like many other "local" political families, the Jalosjoses benefited from the special intervention of national officials in certain cases, an intervention that, again as in the case of other families, has been reciprocated at the local level.

Multiply the Jalosjos example a thousand times, and that is Philippine politics in summary. We suspect that is why Manny Pacquiao, the country's best athlete and the world's best boxer, has steered his own family franchise. He is running for reelection as the gentleman from the lone district of Sarangani, he is fielding his brother to run for congressman in General Santos City, and—the boldest, most brazen venture in his political start up—he is fielding his wife Jinkee as vice governor of Sarangani. What, exactly, has his celebrity wife done to prepare herself for an exacting job as local executive? (That is a question that, in variations, currently echoes through cyberspace.)

We do not know the answer, but the real, more relevant question is directed at Pacquiao himself. How did he convince his former rivals, the Chiongbian family, to accept his wife as a running mate? We think Pacquiao is a keen student of power, and knows not only how to go for the jugular but also where the jugular is. He has certainly become a very Filipino kind of politician, jumping from ship to temporarily convenient ship.) The sudden resurgence of his wife as a player in so-called unity politics is telling indeed.

Our disappointment with Pacquiao's political opportunism is tempered by what we know about the politicians who surround him—hardly the reformist types. But what is President Aquino's excuse? He is surrounded by some of the current leaders in reformist politics, such as Butch Abad and Sonic Acosta. How can he end up with a Senate slate that is only a bit different from the opportunistic slate formed by Vice President Jejomar Binay? Has supposed "statesmanship" trumped the reform agenda?

The scholar Alfred McCoy edited a path-breaking volume of studies on Philippine political families, with a resonant title: "An Anarchy of Families." What we have learned since the restoration of democratic political institutions in 1986 is that in fact there is a resilience to the ruling order of political dynasties; their hold on power is anything but anarchic.

But they do make us miserable. Perhaps that is the source for this afflictive chill has come our way courtesy of the weeklong period for the filing of certificates of candidacy; we can overcome by a misery of families.

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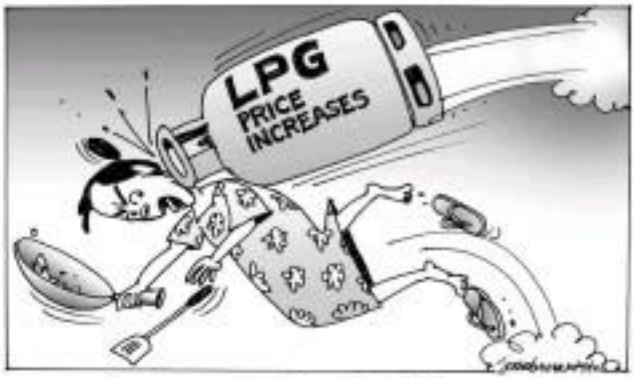

What's wrong with political dynasties?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHAT'S WRONG with having a father and son (Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and candidate Jack Enrile Ponce Enrile), or a brother and sister (Senators Alan Peter and Pia Cayetano), or two brothers (Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and candidate JV Ejercito, according together as senators in a 24-member chamber? What's wrong with having the wife succeed her husband in the same position (candidate Cynthia Villar and outgoing senator Manny Villar)? Or a son-in-law (candidate Juan Edgardo Angara and outgoing senator Edgardo Angara)? Is it?

The rest of the family as a platform for political recruitment goes against an explicit state policy. Section 26 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares: "The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." The framers of Congress to pass a law defining the terms and scope of this constitutional mandate? It was an act so clear. If the nation's legislators cannot be deterred by the ethical principle behind this provision, why do we expect public officials at the lower levels of government to abide by it?

Indeed, a glance at the local elective landscape would instantly reveal this distressing feature of our current political reality. Political families no longer bother to disguise their ambitions to control towns, cities, and provinces by nominating proxies to public office. They store brazenly allocate government positions to members of their own kin group so if those were part of the family heirloom.

We have all heard the excuses they offer in defense of this pernicious practice: one, that their family members are perfectly qualified, and that the younger generation of the same family is often better trained for public service; two, that political leadership is not any different from other professions where parents pass on to their children the same passion and aptitude for their chosen line of work; three, that society is better off when there is continuity in public service than when there is disruption in leadership; four, that the power to install individuals to public office in any case remains with the electorate, not with the family; and finally, the fact that Congress has been unable all these years to craft a law defining a political dynasty signifies the impracticality of this constitutional provision.

If it empresses anything at all other than disgust and overwhelmedness of our politicians, I think the failure of Congress to effect—what the Constitution says merely reminds us of the futility of legislating solutions for which society is still is not ready. The question we ought to ask then is not why our politicians defy the Constitution, but why political clans persist, and what enables them to dominate politics.

Political clans belong to traditional society. And even is very much a traditional country in at least two ways: first, our society remains stratified according to social rank and power; and second, the family still determines to a great extent an individual's life chances and place in society. It is true that occupations and professions at the top are now more accessible to people born to the middle and lower classes. But, whether in business or in politics, the necessity and political resources that a family member can tap in the starting line often spell the difference between failure and success.

The framers of our Constitution sought to break political monopolies by proscribing barriers and prohibiting political dynasties. Both tools failed to loosen the grip of elite families over the nation's political life. Why? Because the political system failed to develop an alternative structure that could challenge the existing kinship networks as mechanisms of political recruitment and leadership formation. That is the work of political parties.

But, instead of functioning as durable tools for aggregating diverse interest groups, our political parties have become no more than family-owned franchises to be sold and leased to the highest bidder. Bereft of ideological commitment, they have no distinct identity to preserve, and no sound view to pass on to a younger generation. Rather than nurture and groom young leaders from a wide pool of talent, these parties have been content to nurture stores of the old political dons and to nominate celebrities spawned by the mass media.

Not surprisingly, our so-called political parties have been a perennial members, an aggregation of applicants, no finances of their own outside of those provided by their elected leaders. But, more importantly, they neither command any demand from their elected members to stay compliance with any party line. Thus, the phenomenon of "turncoatism" (a name for switching parties whenever it suits them, is dond, so insignificant it formal party members ship that they have no problem retaining their nominal party affiliations even as they run as "guest" candidates in another party.

These traits may make politics "more fun to watch in the Philippines," but they are also the reasons why our institutions do not work. We cannot continue to assign to a few families the work that in modern societies belongs to political parties. A nation's political system, like its economy, must be able to draw from the best and brightest of its population if it is to survive the growing complexity of the modern world. It can only do this by professionalizing politics. Since the President's party, the ruling Liberal Party, have the will to achieve this?

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Tale of two cities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S INTERESTING to look at the differences in political cultures between the United States and at an event: its most elections.

The first difference is that US elections are contested by political parties, says an axiom.

The Republicans and Democrats parties have been there for a long time, and no for the reason shall meet. Or at least, we're told we party members looking out for the other. I remember again from another and the reaction of a Japanese political officer when I asked him what would happen to a politician who abandoned his party to join a stronger one. He found the question incomprehensible. If a politician did that, he said after a long pause, then he's fickle, afraid. In Japan, even just having one's job is a sign of disloyalty, leaving one's party, that is treason.

Here, you look at the Liberal Party and United Nationalist Alliance names, and you'll see not just that they're interchangeable but also that they harbor transients, some of whom have taken shelter in a host of parties whose names straddle the alphabet. Where blame the voters? Not a system for this: it has apparently loosened, or broken down, party loyalties. They call for a return to the 2-party system of pre-martial law days.

Well, it is enough, those were only two parties before martial law. Dynasties existed, mainly, which eventually have coalesced today both of which with some loyal following in pains of the country, but party members freely crossed to each other's side. There were two dramatic cases—the first when Ramon Magsaysay bailed LP to become NP standard-bearer, and the second when Ferdinand Marcos did exactly the same thing a decade later. Both were rewarded for their pains by winning the elections and becoming presidents.

So, we've never really had real political parties in this country.

The second difference is that US elections—as well as those of nations democracies—hinge on issues, once hinges on personality.

Of course the American debate isn't particularly deep. The test of the world not only laugh as the Republicans try to paint Barack Obama as a socialist because of Obamacare. Europeans in particular routinely enjoy socialized medicine, education, and its some parts even housing. And of course the United States became the world's greatest power after the war, in the wake of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which established the welfare state and put it under the reign of the rich.

It can elections, including the coming one, revolve around issue, or policy, or platform, I don't know what it is. I remember observing the elections in Germany in 2002 and someone telling me: "You come in a bad time, the election this year are interesting, there are no real issues, there are just personalities." I thought that the German thing in the world from our perspective. Here, we would be telling visitors the opposite.

The candidates on the ticket vary well in the surveys are not those who have distinguished themselves, least of all in the unprecedented trial, with the exception of Anti-Trust Enrile, who seems to transfer his newfound public acceptance to his son. They are the ones who are, or have been, elected officials whose names are already known to the public.

The third, and most crucial, difference of all is that elections are just one of the ways Americans take part in their governance; elections are merely such the only way we do.

The American public does not disappear before and after election, remains a citizen—not of political life. Historian Joe over America today, and its drift toward right-wing extremism is scary—with Romney's call for renewed American leadership of the world sounds like a throw-back to the days of Ronald Reagan. Yet there is also a vibrant civil society in America, which is why the Occupy movement has been able to take off in the first place.

Here, well, the coat with which candidates toss the voters during elections is matched only by the ease with which they ignore them after words. We like to call ourselves a democracy, yet our claim to democracy really rests only on that we have elections. That is how we see the difference between ourselves and what came before and after. We had no (real) elections then, so do now. But quite apart from the quality of our elections, we have little or no say in what happens in between them.

Of late, of course, things have been full of promises of change. That's not just because P-Noy has come to power and he has made it a point to make or harness public opinion to achieve certain ends, such as ousting Renato Corona. That's also, and far more so, because a great many of this country's citizens have turned cynical. The world media have become one of the latest perverted ends, if not the most powerful one, for the middle class at least. If you're the mass, the bulk of whom does not own a PC, let alone a DSL, to weigh in on what's happening around them. Not least the way their public officials are comporting themselves. Which is to say not least the way we are being governed.

Over the past several years, Facebook, Twitter, and blogs—certain blogs per many newspaper columns in shame—have burst into the national consciousness like a rampaging flood. Unlike the traditional media, they are far more interpersonal and communal, for worse and more visceral...which is good and bad...which is to be expected. Just people who have long been more suddenly given voice.

But then, just as suddenly, you get a law that slips all this to the bad. You get a law that pushes the country backward one. You get a law that puts our democracy back on the head of the pin that is—elections.

Something to think about, this tale of two cities.

Economics of martial law and people power

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

EVERY YEAR in September, as a dramatic way to celebrate it, Noli Lust imposed his will on a hapless people, but there is enough confirmed facts for us to embolden Filipinos to topple the regime in 1986.

That's a story tale, old, overused storyline that of a [unclear] dictator, who has amassed enough for intellectual time, and for small minds to deceive explain the past. But reality is always richer in all aspects, complex.

It is actually easier to overthrow one, and provoke the ensuing chaos to intellectual skills. The Bridging Communist Party founded the Liberal Party's seizing of power in August 1971—just before its supporter Benigno Aquino arrested—and blamed it on Ferdinand Marcos. But that only goes to show the just-the-not-so-suspicious mental [un], after a year of meticulous preparation.

The communists had not foreseen, though, that a ranging economic would allow Marcos to crush the communist and take his strongest power.

Most Filipinos acquiesced to martial law since the economic surged from 1972 to 1980 at an average annual growth rate of 6 percent. The growth rate for 1972, the first full year of martial law, is also 6 percent. In the seven years after, the ensuing years were more pooled. We those jailed for fighting to overthrow the dictator by force of arms, and those who were killed in trying to do that, were supersonic.

Ellen Tordesillas, the investigative [word] Marcos, among other things because he decried their [unclear] Filipinos, allowing the rest of the same generation of Filipino leaders such as Pilipinas Cadalzabian—and Senator Tito Sotto—to shield themselves from [unclear] and [unclear] happy with their lives, alongside [un] Miguel Corp. The South Korean [unclear] proving made the fields like Ambong near the metropolis into prime properties. The Ayala-Makati [unclear] Corp. was established during martial law. A dear [unclear] built his fort depending [unclear] on the 1970s. He proved to be his huge media library by.

Whether it was because of Marcos' Garrycheese, [unclear] was implemented, the Philippines' [unclear] economic [unclear] was [unclear] boomed in the country.

Our [unclear] 1983 the country ran out of dollars to service its loans, and defaulted soon down, financially [unclear] it from the world. The GDP collapsed by an unprecedented 7 percent in 1984, and in 1985, the price [unclear] stumbled from 89 to 1920 to the dollar, and inflation [unclear] to the [unclear] rate of 50 percent in 1984. So president could have survived such [unclear] catastrophe.

The elite suddenly [unclear] freedom-lovers, dreaming [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] and joining street protests. It dismissed itself from [unclear] people power was found on a bad economy's power to make people want to overthrow [unclear] government.

He study the past to understand the present. Joseph Estrada will be just this economy was destroyed by [unclear] [unclear] that [unclear] the damage done by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and [unclear] smuggling that induced short economies to a fiscal crisis level. The political crisis triggered by his [unclear] [unclear] ensued [unclear] investments.

Despite the attempts to [unclear] late President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo completed her term because of the strong 5 percent annual average GDP growth rate under her watch. Even of the height of the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, it stayed 3 percent and 7 percent, respectively. And to prevent the economy through the global financial crisis that started in 2008, making it the only one to avoid a recession—the biggest reason why investors have been so confident [un] it in the past two years.

A mainstream media feared for a president as never before to a great extent explains President Aquino's popularity. But it's also [unclear] people give them [unclear] economic reforms. But it is [unclear] due to the economy's health, thanks to his persistent predecessor's economic reforms and management.

In a coming economy made Filipino-millions [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

The 'highest example' as gift from a father

LETTERS

TO EVERYONE who joined in our grief and sorrow, my profoundest gratitude—for their tributes to, support for, and kind words about Ramon Cayabyab and our family. I was moved deeply that so many joined us at his wake and funeral.

There are many, many things on my mind, and I wish to say one last word publicly before I return to the United States tomorrow and live the without my beloved father.

Ramon had An Inkling. Yet because we are stupid, after all. He was one of the first on line, but he, like the rest of us, sometimes fell down. What he gave to others and the country often took away from our family, especially those of us in the United States. For years, I was resentful for this pain and anger. On countless occasions for 20 long years, he simply wasn't there—unable to visit, unable to share, unable to be a father. That was part of the reason he was always just so much to many Filipinos.

Yet at bottom, our sacrifice as a family amounted to a trifle compared with what he was asking us to do, to release he served and to our country. This I've come to understand. And in the end, by any measure, he was able to give, ridicule and my family with a beautiful life and the highest example.

When I visited him in the hospital before he died, I was able to say all the things I was able to tell him that I was no longer present, that it was all right, that I understood and accepted why he did what he chose to do. Why he returned to the Philippines, who he really visited us in the United States, why he often forgot about me together. Before he died, I was able to tell him that even though I hated, I was no longer burdened—and that I hoped that he, too, had let go of his own pain about the personal and political tragedies that defined our lives. In the end, I wanted that to know that he had done able, ultimately, to mend me and our siblings that we could handle whatever it was he was leaving behind.

Ramon, son, You've done enough for me and others. Exceedingly more. He still continues to make work and wider influences matters you have left undone. One time in that would run two days—a truly unique. Because you've been such a beautiful person, my highest hope was for you to have spent time with my children, especially little Elijah and Isabella. But even though that will never come to pass, you can be sure that they will know who their grandfather was, who you are, my beloved father—a kind and generous man, a real hero.

We love you. Most rest your soul. Rest in peace—we will meet again in the afterlife.

—JULIANO BUTSET BAMBOC
CHYNTHIA B

P-Noy 's Tagalog speeches unmask parochial leader

DURING OUR 40 years of tutelage under the United States, English was taught in our private and public schools and used in the media as a medium. During the Japanese occupation, Nipongo was introduced for a while, but the liberation years extinguished once more to the use of English, the language most commonly and conveniently used to bind together the various languages and dialects spoken in the Philippines.

In our global intercommunications today, English is the chosen language worldwide. Filipinos are able to find meaningful jobs abroad and can be understood because of English. Businesses prefer to use as many increase of English, which is spoken and understood even in the remotest hamlets. Our overseas contract workers, whose billions of dollar remittances actually support our economy and governments, found their employment because of English. No one thrust or reach for their own flutes.

It was during the time of President Cory Aquino and now under her son, President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, that Tagalog is fiercely used even for the State of the Nation Addresses (SONA). With fumbling to my president speak in Tagalog during the State

Without describing "Tagalog" as a member of Malaysian people residing in the Philippines, Tagalog is not well understood in the Visayas and Mindanao provinces since most of the several regional dialects with their preferred dialects numbering over 30. This is why we are, a proud and resilient people, not perceived but global, respecting our cultural differences.

If this is manifest, President Aquino is the prejudice of the Tagalog region dictator of which Tagalog is but a part. Also, he has every right to conveniently speak in his very flawed and deep Tagalog. But I am a Bicolano and a learner and don't mind to entertain myself to Mr. Aquino's preferred language. I am proud to be a global Filipino who is very comfortable with English.

As Bicolanders mostly advocates, there is a time for all seasons—a time to speak in Tagalog and a time to use English. Yes, President Aquino must learn to do as he is the president of the Republic of the Philippines. Otherwise, he is a retrogressive and parochial leader.

—BILLY BICOLANDIA
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Time to put an end to 'thick-faced' pols

"EPAL EXPELIENTE the thick-skinned traditional politicians (trapo) who use government funds and projects for political purposes (from the "municipal") "Repal," meanwhile, means Repeal Party-List.

Pantilo Lahar ng Mass (PLM), a national political party of the marginalized sectors, urges the Commission on Elections to BAN (ban members of running-position, close and hooked elections). In this regard, we are starting a campaign to end "Epal" and erase "Repal," especially during the remaining period of party-list registration.

The party-list system, according to Republic Act 7941, is designed to enable the marginalized and underrepresented sectors to secure a seat in Congress, which has long been monopolized by traditional politics and clans.

Getting rid of the "Repal" is a most welcome move by the Comelec. It ensures that only genuine party-lists, or those truly composed of the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, will have better chances of getting accreditation. But not Comelec, however, is to be transparent in the disqualification process to prevent the exclusion of the genuine ones. It is very enough to say the "Repal."

First, they have nominees who do not represent the marginalized sectors. The classic example is Mikey Arroyo of Ang Galing Pinoy who is said to be a recently passed son a tuberculosis. Anak pumila po, mga ate ng security agency? (Mas masanay agency ninyo? Ang sasakit naman!)

Second, their nominees belong to the same family—wife, husband, children and close relatives. From the records of the Comelec itself: Bagong Henerasyon's nominees are a wife-and-husband tandem; Agrarian Reform-sponsor Association's nominees are a brother-and-son tandem; and the Alliance of Organizations, Networks and Associations of the Philippines' nominees are a brother-and-sister tandem (the third nominee is a sister-in-law).

Third, their nominees belong to political economic clan (oligarch), and are "mga anak" (their SALN reports declare assets of tens of millions of pesos). Of the 56 party-list representatives in Congress today, 49 are multimillionaires. Surely, they are not marginalized; they belong to the rich enclaves of landlords, capitalists, brokers and free-riders.

—SIMON MELCHOR,
chair, Pantilo Lahar ng Mass (PLM),
pantilolahanngmass@gmail.com

MILITANTS demonstrate 'Epal' and 'Repal' in a protest rally in front of the Comelec office in Manila. (Comelec, 4/10)

A man of vision needed for Manila

FORGIVE ME said he, the next story of Manila should be a man of vision—someone with a political will, someone who can transform the physical appearance of the city from the ugliness, chaos, dirt and decay that it is today, someone who can regain the lost glory of Manila of the 1960's and 1970s, which was a city that was the envy of other Southeast Asian countries.

In some 2013, Manila voters should choose or pick someone with a good track record of public service and performance. A entertainment anyone who could restore to and refurbish Manila and elevate it to a city on a par with other world-class Asian cities.

—PEDRO REPUERTO JR.,
jr_reburto@yahoo.com

Telco people behind text message scam?

LAST AUG. 26, another scam greeted me in the form of a text message from someone with GSM No. +639207666766). The message was: "Kuya na kita dito? Ito na ako-text ang ako dito kung saan ang address ng P. Jose kasi dyan, ano a, di kadiliver tatlo. Here are you there? This is my new running number so my old number has paid be activated anymore. Take care all of you there, miss you all, God bless! 'Bat kasi' kind of quote). But the sender didn't give any name.

When I checked my list of the 300 numbers of my daughters, sons and grandchildren who are abroad or in other parts of the country, there was no such number.

My daughter Ramon, who is staying in Davao, advised me not to answer the text message. I reminded this smart by similar to the text message I received a year ago from somebody who pretended to be a relative who had just arrived from Australia. He asked me to send him a prepaid load of P300, stating a classmate of his whom he met in Manila was asking for it. I can hardly believe the service provider does not know the modus operandi which is happening right under its very nose.

It is high time that the Department of Transportation and Communications investigated this scam that seeks to prey on more or less 22 million unwired cell phone owners throughout the country. Only once personnel would know the active GSM numbers. It therefore stands to reason that some rogue personnel might be "leaking" the subscribers' numbers to some syndicate members. Let us not wait for President Aquino to issue an order to investigate this scam.

—SOLOMON O. PUNZALAN,
Barangay Commander,
Bael, Lanuza Ave., Manila

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

LP disowns suspect in car, motorbike smuggling running for gov

DAGUPAN DE ORO CITY—The ruling Liberal Party (LP) has disowned a reported smuggler who had filed his certificate of candidacy for governor claiming he is a member of the LP.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, a stalwart of the LP leader, said in an e-mail to reporters that Lynard Alban Bigasa, who wants to run for governor of Bukidnon, is not and never is a member of the LP.

"His declaration that he is an LP candidate in Bukidnon is totally false," Guingona said.

Where he filed his certificate of candidacy (COC) last Tuesday, Bigasa told reporters he is running for governor under the LP.

Lawyer Renato Magbanua, regional election director, said Bigasa' COC is valid even after the LP disowned him.

Magbanua said while the LP has its recognition Bigasa for Bukidnon governor, "even without a certificate of official nomination and acceptance from the LP, his candidacy is still considered legitimate."

Magbanua said the Commission on Elections has not received any petition to declare Bigasa a nuisance candidate.

"We only receive the COCs and nonetheless has to file a petition in the head office in Manila to declare somebody a nuisance candidate," Magbanua said.

Magbanua said Bigasa has every right to run for office as he is still not convicted of any crime.

Bigasa first gained nationwide attention after his alleged involvement in the smuggling of luxury cars and motorbikes in May 2011.

Twenty-one high-end motorcycles and four luxury cars, including the controversial P400,000 chopper that supposedly belonged to Hollywood superstar Mel Wanda, were seized from Bigasa by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in separate raids in Cagayan de Oro City and in Tubig, Sultan Kudarat, last year.

The NBI filed smuggling and illegal possession of firearms charges against Bigasa at the Regional Trial Court in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. —DR R. Jereza, Inquirer Mindanao

Poll quest pits brother vs brother

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JORDAN, Guimaras—A widening rift that appears irreconcilable between brothers Guimaras Rep. Joaquin Carlos (JC) Rahman Nava and Gov. Felipe Nava will be at the forefront in next year's elections as their camps fight for provincial posts.

The reelectionist brothers filed their certificates of candidacies (COCs) minutes after each other on Wednesday at the provincial office of the Commission on Elections.

Joaquin Carlos, of the ruling Liberal Party (LP), first filed his COC accompanied by candidates under his slate including candidates for governor, vice governor and eight provincial board members.

Buenavista Mayor Samuel Dumarete will run for governor with Board Member Vicente De Asis as his running mate.

Minutes later, Felipe, who is seeking reelection under the PDP-Laban and United Nationalist Alliance, filed his COC. He was accompanied by his running mate, Board Member Arellos Gonzaga.

Irreconcilable

The governor said his party will not field a candidate for congressman to run against his brother.

"It's a personal decision, which I sought approval from the party but I respected it as it still my brother," the governor said.

But in separate interviews, the brothers said their rift is irreconcilable, especially that lines have been drawn for next year's elections.

"We have major differences and disagreements in politics and programs. We have tried to settle these but it didn't work out," said Representative Nava.

In a press conference following the filing of their COCs, the congressman's fellow candidates, including four of the five incumbent mayors in the province, took turns accusing the governor of mismanaging the affairs of the province and of alleged irregularities.

The governor has repeatedly denied the allegations and has insisted that those were part of efforts to smear him from office.

Dominance

The brothers, who are both working in third term of office, have dominated politics in the province for more than a decade.

Their father, Dr. Catalino Nava, was appointed acting governor after the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution until 1992. He was elected the first congressman of the province in 1995 but did not finish his term when he died from an illness in December that year.

Joaquin Carlos defeated former Rep. Edgar Esplana, an ally of the Locsin family, in the congressional race in the 2007 election. He had served three terms as governor from 1998 to 2007.

Felipe was mayor of the capital town of Jordan also for three terms, from 1998 until 2007.

In Western Visa Southern Leyte, two political families will be pitted against each other.

With a report from Jimi Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas

THE UNESCO heritage city of Vigan commissioned Kapampangan sculptor Willi-edu Layug to do this wood relief on the culture and history of the city.

Unesco heritage city taps Kapampangan skill

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

GRAGRA, Pampanga—A wooden relief mural on the culture, industries and history of Vigan, an Ilocos Sur city on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), has been completed by artisans in an old woodcarving community here.

Sculpted by Willedo Layug and a team of eight, the Vigan mural was delivered in Ilocos Sur on Monday.

At least 2.8 meters tall and 0.8 meter wide, the mural is made of four panels. It was commissioned by the Vigan City government in February and took six months to finish.

Layug said three layers of kiln-dried mayapis wood is assembled to create the life images in a composite visual.

"I was informed that this would be the centerpiece at the lobby of the city's convention center. It would be shown to the public in time for a Unesco event on Sept. 8 and 9," said Layug, who specializes in ecclesiastical and secular art.

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

For the Vigan project, he combined various styles. The Ilocano y Ilocano, simplado and minimalism.

In the first, human figures are assembled in robotic fashion, while Layong featured from masters in Spain, known as impression of images wearing real clothes. Embroidery colors or detailed woodcarving, he said.

"I feel accomplished. The city gave me a free hand in the design," he said.

He thanked Vigan City Mayor Eva Maria Medalla for giving Kapampangan artists the opportunity to showcase the art of Bulo, one of the two oldest towns in Pampanga and it was entrusted to Gragra in 1902.

On its website, Unesco said: "Vigan is the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia. Its architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines, from China and from Europe, resulting in a culture and townscape that have no parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia."

Mayor admits illegal mining in Zambo Sur is a headache

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Illegal mining continues in an area covered by a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) in a town of Zamboanga del Sur and local officials admitted they were helpless against it.

Leonardo Malinao Jr., mayor of Buug town, said he could confirm the continued operations of illegal miners in the town, but blamed the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for local officials' failure to stop it.

"Illegal mining is still there," said Malinao. He said while the MGB had issued a cease and desist order (CDO), "how can we enforce the law if we don't receive any support from the MGB itself?"

"They issued a CDO but there's no specific guidelines to follow," said Dalmao.

He admitted that the local government that he heads cannot seek police or military help in enforcing the CDO because the MGB order contained only the words "cease and desist," that's it."

The mayor, however, admitted that what is going on is "not just a simple small scale mining."

"My label is as medium scale," he said.

The illegal miners, according to Malinao, are encroaching an area covered by MPSA belonging to Canadian firm TVI.

He said small scale miners "extract gold ore and then miners don't even risk their mines to the Central Bank."

"Instead they sell it directly to middle smugglers," he added.

"We really wanted to enforce the law to finally put a stop to this... because the illegal miners don't have a permit from the local government unit," said Dalmao.

"In the end the government is the losing party," he said.

Just last July, the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board of Zamboanga del Sur denied a petition by a small scale miners' group called Mamina to have the area that they are operating in declared as "Minahang Bayan."

The board said in its decision that the area covered by a MPSA can be declared Minahang Bayan.

"Mamina submitted this," said the board decision, "that the area it applied for is within the MPSA of (Canadian mining firm) TVIDEC." —Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

2 guards face raps for theft of Church donations

By Carine M. Aurelio
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—Two security guards face charges for allegedly stealing the cash collections of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Cathedral in this city.

Rely Joy Dayuday and Rolando Duarte, night-shift security guards assigned to the cathedral, were seen in closed circuit television (CCTV) camera footage getting donations in the left side of the main entrance on Sept. 19 and 20.

The footage was taken to the police station by Msgr. Julio Hernaela, the rector of the Diocese of Dumaguete.

The Sept. 19 footage showed a man in a white shirt going to one of the religious images at the left side of the cathedral's main entrance.

The man then inspected the large cabinet located under the statue where devotees put their donations and took something.

Second footage

In the Sept. 20 footage, a man wearing a hood went to the same cabinet and used a stick to get money.

After a few minutes, he was seen inserting something into his jacket. He then removed his hood as he left the area.

Hernaela identified the two men as Dayuday and Duarte.

The monsignor said they installed the CCTV cameras five months ago due to a series of thefts inside the church. At least P500,000 in donations had been lost to thieves this year.

Architect points to Cebu model on good reclamation effects

By Irene R. Sison Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A 200-hectare reclaimed area owned by the Cebu City government has been cited by a top urban planner as a successful model for reclamation projects outside Metro Manila.

Felino Palafox Jr., world renowned architect, said the fourth Small Properties (SRP) has even been shortening big businesses like the country.

These include SM Prime Holdings Inc. and Villarosa Land Inc.

Palafox mentioned SRP in his presentation during a conference, "Developing and Land Reclamation 2012," in Singapore, which ran from Oct. 2 to 4.

SRP is dubbed as the "heart of the city" as it is accessible to the north through the Cebu City port and in the south through an access road in Barangay Mambaling.

Environmentalists said by e-mail, Palafox could reclamation could "do the country a lot of good if done properly."

"Reclamation, if done properly is the solution to flooding in Metro Manila. It is the solution to tsunamis, the solution to storm surges, subsidies in (productive) additional prime land," said Palafox in the presentation he made for the conference.

While some have claimed that reclamation has caused

PALAFOX

negative environmental impact such as flooding, Palafox said inefficient waste disposal and the absence of flood-mitigating infrastructure were the primary causes of floods in urban areas.

"The Philippines has the world's third longest waterfront but we don't use our waterfront properly. We don't see them as front doors to development but as outhouses where garbage is thrown," he pointed out.

Palafox designed two reclamation mega projects in Manila Bay: Pasay Islands Resort and Map of the World. Both are acknowledged modern architectural wonders and tourists destinations.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

John Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Young historian finds Laguna birth date

By Marlow Cinco
San Pedro, Laguna

TWO INFINHISTORIANS, it may simply be a trifling topic, but the question that was said to have baffled even Gregorio F. Zaide, who authored many textbooks about Philippine history, is serious matter to the provincial government: When was Laguna founded?

Jose Mario "Pepe" Alas, 30, wasn't even looking for an answer when he saw the date—July 28, 1571—while researching for a coffee table book he was commissioned to write about the province.

"That was the earliest date found ever after cross-checking with other history books," said Alas, a historian who hangs an antique collection of Filipiniana in his home in San Pedro town in Laguna.

In June, Alas was reading "Historia General de Filipinas," a book written in 1916 by Jesuit priest, Pablo Pastells, one of national hero Jose Rizal's professors, when he saw the date "28 julio 1571" on page 17 in a chart that listed the encomienda land grants distributed by Spanish governor-general Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

"La Laguna," which means "the lagoon," referred to the land mass around the lake region. It was encountered as an encomienda to Spanish conquistador Martin de Goiti.

Long search

Alas said his book editor, Ramon Fa, immediately went to see Gov. Jeorge Estrella to present the proof. "When I showed him the book, he appeared excited. He even said he got goose bumps," Alas recalled.

Several attempts had been made earlier to establish Laguna's founding date. Some private researchers explored archives in Spain, while a former Laguna governor offered a reward.

"I learned from the NHCP (National Historical Commission of the Philippines) that even the famed historian Emgelo Zaide searched for it but to no avail," said Alas, who has been passionate about history since childhood.

Although the NHCP has yet to validate Alas' find, a provincial board member, Neil Nieto, who chairs the committee on education, tourism, history, arts and culture, had already declared a celebration declaring July 28 as Laguna's official founding anniversary.

'Unpatriotic'

"I had requested a lot of people to dispute my claim. Who am I anyway? A nobody, who works in an IT (information technology) company," said Alas, who has made history his passion since childhood.

A critic of Alas' paper said Laguna was declared an encomienda only on July 20, 1571, but it became a province in 1581 with Bay town as capital. But even so, Alas argued, Laguna was already declared a "juridical entity."

"Some people from the NHCP (also) found it unpatriotic to commemorate something that connotes slavery," he said, pointing out that an encomienda was a piece of land where an encomendero exercised labor from the native natives.

"I just hope they wouldn't let their biases come first. What could we do if that's what the facts tell us?" he said.

A University of the Philippines Los Baños history professor, Dwight David Steuers, said Alas' claim had merit. "To the absence of any document (that challenges Alas' claim, Alas) was able to unravel something worth recognizing," Steuers said in an earlier interview.

"What good comes out of this is that people are talking (and) debating on how to evaluate history (thus giving them) a sense of origin," he said.

"HISTORIA GENERAL DE FILIPINAS" In the chart, La Laguna was listed as an "encomienda" entrusted to Martin de Goiti on July 28, 1571. History buff Jose Mario "Pepe" Alas maintains a blog, www.filipinosinhistory.wordpress.com, where he posts his writings and musings about the Philippine history.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN JAN BANDAYREL | INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Robredo aide struggles to find peace of mind after surviving crash

By Joan Rosambo Jr.
Naga City

SENIOR Insp. Jane Paolo Abracado is still struggling to find peace of mind after surviving the plane crash that killed then Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and their two pilots off the coast of Masbate City on Aug. 18.

During the 40th day observance here of the death of the former secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Abracado, 27, Robredo's police aide, said he has to live with the "guilt" that came with being the lone survivor and the question why he has to be the one who survived.

Abracado, who has been reinstated to his job at the Philippine National Police, was with his wife Lourdes, 24, and 2-month-old son Elmer.

Miracle

"The impact during the crash kept on playing over and over in his mind, he said, and failing to understand how he survived, he could only say that it must have been a miracle.

He also felt conflicted after the media reported false accounts of how he survived, including a report that he jumped out of the plane which he found impossible to happen.

"There is nothing to explain to them who criticize me ... I understand why they don't even consider the injuries I suffered after the crash and the trauma it brought me," he said.

He said it is a "mental riot" for an aide like him, no matter how impossible the circumstances, to have failed to save the person he was sworn to protect.

"I was very willing and prepared to give my life for Sir (then Whom I accepted the job as his aide I knew very well my responsibility and the things I should sacrifice without any mental reservation ... that includes my life," he said.

He said he was thankful to the families of Robredo and his aide, one who supported and inspired him to move on and defended him from negative speculations.

He also wanted to thank his lifesavers, Joseph Delfin Belderama, the fishermen who rescued him from the sea shortly after the plane went down.

Abracado said he/she/they took the courage to rush to the crash site even as everyone was prohibited from going near the crashed plane because of the danger that it might explode.

He also extended his gratitude to his family, relatives, friends, the Masbate Philippine National Police, Coast Guard, local officials and other people who supported and encouraged him to be strong amid adversity.

Wish

"The first week after the crash I wished I didn't wake up and things would have been easier for everybody. But the people who took care and supported me made me realize that there is more in life to live for, especially with my wife and child," Abracado said.

He recalled how Jesse Robredo treated him like his own son.

"I am alive today not because of my abilities, but by a series of luck that only God knows why. I do not know what God has planned for me. I have always believed that everything happens in God's will. And if this is all God's will, it is no great honor hunting knees beside Sir Jesse up to the last moment before God took him," Abracado said.

Mindoro execs want island back to its jurisdiction

By Madonna T. Virola
City of Calapan

LIMASAWA, an island southeast of Bulalacao town south of Oriental Mindoro, has a long stretch of white sand beach and therefore seen as a potential tourist crowd drawer.

It is also called Libagu Island and is a sitio of Barangay Manide of the southernmost town of Bulalacao under Provincial Decree No. 1681. The decree, signed by then president Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978, declared certain islands, coves and peninsulas in the Philippines as tourism zones and tourism preserves under the administration and control of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Among the islands listed in PD 1978 is "Libagu Island" under the province of Oriental Mindoro. The decree is now being used by Oriental Mindoro to get back this island from Antique province.

The provincial government has filed a petition with the Regional Trial Court in Roxas town that laid claim to Limasawa, a 114-hectare island that is under the jurisdiction of Antique's Culasyo town.

In a 22-page document submitted to the Regional Trial Court Branch 43 in Roxas town on Sept. 11, Oriental Mindoro Provincial Legal Officer Kristine Grace Suarez, Vice Gov. Rolando Ocampo and the provincial board asserted that Limasgas should be part of Bulalacao.

Today's group had been asking for exchange with the former provincial board but in a resolution on May 23, the town said "it is not amenable to any form of settlement or the alleged dispute involving the island of Limasgas."

Limasgas, about 30 minutes by boat from Bulalacao, is believed to have a high potential for tourist investments.

Suarez added that several Limasgas residents, in their affidavits, also said Oriental Mindoro Gov. Alfonso Umali Jr. that they wanted to be part of Bulalacao as they regularly transact business with the town which also provides them certain medical benefits.

Suarez cited an affidavit submitted on Aug. 17 by Roger Mamangkal, 60, who said his family has been living on a 10-ha land they own in Limasgas.

Mamangkal said that his family has been paying real property taxes to Bulalacao for the past of property prior to 1979 and up to the present.

He said his five children completed their studies at the Bulalacao National High School which could be reached within around 30 minutes by boat from their island, encouraged to ground two boats to reach a school in Culasyo.

The Oriental Mindoro officials also submitted an affidavit signed last August by Omar Lim, former mayor of Culasyo, who declared that between 1978 and 1979, he had a "verbal agreement" with his friend Ordonio Bago, former mayor of Bulalacao, if he could "temporarily borrow" Limasgas from Bulalacao town with a promise to "return" it at the end of his term.

Lim, in his statement, reasoned out he wanted to have "jurisdiction" over Limasgas because fugitives from Culasyo were hiding in Limasgas to escape sanctions from authorities in Culasyo.

At the end of his term of office, Lim said he fulfilled his promise to return Limasgas to a brother of Bago, Guillermo Bulos, who became mayor of Bulalacao.

There were no written documents about the alleged borrowing but Lim said he would testify in court about the agreement.

Bago also submitted an affidavit in August that supported Lim's claims.

In a press statement released by the Provincial Information Office, Tedoe said their proposed provincial development and physical framework plan has included Bulalacao, along with Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Baco and Mansalay towns in its delineated as tourism zone of Oriental Mindoro.

Tedoe said the Tourism Infrastructure Enterprise Zone Authority has also certified that Limasgas belongs to Oriental Mindoro.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Board of Antique said in its resolution No. 142-2012 that Limasgas is "within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Antique" as attested to in original certificate of title 42893 issued by the Register of Deeds to Joaquin Lim which identified the disputed island as part of Barangay Alibolo in Culasyo, Antique.

The resolution also cited Commission on Elections records which contained names of residents from Limasgas who were registered voters of Barangay Alibolo and the names of elected village officers of Alibolo who were residents of Limasgas.

"A map from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority showed Sitio Limasgas to be geographically part of Antique," added the resolution.

Cyberlaw backers blink

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the hacking #occupythesenate committee becoming the top trend on the microblogging site in the Philippines as Wednesday, according to two trend mapping websites.

Others urged more prosaic and limited government websites.

Bedchamber Sen. Francis Escudero earlier indicated he wanted to repeal the libel provision in the new law that raised to seven from 12 years the prescriptive considerable penalties for a single act of online libel.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, an independent senatorial candidate, warned against becoming "selective" in the law's implementation, as if the new law that raised to seven from 12 years the prescriptive considerable penalties for a single act of online libel.

Four out of five redirections of President Aquino's senatorial slate, including Escudero, want the online libel provision stricken out of the new law that lawmakers are considering initially meant to control pornography and found on the Internet.

Ironically, a redirection of the other slate, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, wants to give the prosecution the benefit of the doubt, opposing calls for the suspension or deletion on its constitutionality and the executive branch's implementing rules and regulations.

At a news conference, Angara indicated openness to amending the "one degree higher" provision "but this is the stake of last week."

Decriminalize libel

However, the senator said: "The sensible solution to that is to decriminalize the [formal Penal Code (RPC)] on libel. Then there is no regime on libel in the country. Its [a result] precipitated it in the 19th century, it [becomes] a dead law. That's the administration."

Angara said he would not favor amending the cybercrime law to remove the libel provision as demanded by some quarters. "You cannot decriminalize it on the Internet while it remains a crime under the RPC," he explained.

In the first place, Angara said libel was difficult to prove.

"Because the rule of libel says the complainant must prove it is utterly false and secondly that it was motivated by actual malice, not implied. These may or other one of that is at difficult process," he said.

Angara said libel in the cyberspace law was not something new. "We are just importing the law of libel for press and broadcast into the Internet. Other countries have similar laws of impunity. I can begin attacking maliciously the people I hate," he added.

Suspend application

Angara said he was more "reasoned" about the hate raised against Section 19 authorizing the Department of Justice (DOJ) to issue an order to restrict or block access to websites found to be in prima facie violation of the provisions of the new law.

He said he would call Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to urge her to "suspend the application" of that portion of the law "until the necessary amendatory law has been passed."

Angara said the provision allowed the DOJ to shut down a website if it had been "hacked or attacked or converted for use of an evildoer."

"I didn't put this particular provision, I'm trying to leave in the record who introduced it but I'm not shying away from taking responsibility. I think this needs some improvement," he told reporters.

"What I will propose is that the DOJ can only do that upon a court order, like a restraint order that is enforced before a writ can be issued.

Establish probable cause

This means authorities must first establish probable cause instead of simply relying on private complaints before a writ can be issued.

"I will import the principles of search warrant and arrest in, to this thing and I will do that immediately," Angara said.

The senator, however, maintained that the newly-maligned law was a necessary given the reality of new technology and its accompanying hassles.

"We need a law like this because of the massive attacks on websites of the government, what about the banks and financial institutions that would be hacked?" he said.

Angara noted that the Philippines was now on the list of top 10 countries in the Asia Pacific targeted by hackers because it lacked the legal framework for the use of the Internet. "This law is an attempt at creating a legal framework of how to expand the use of the Internet without any social or economic harm to others," he said.

Put in perspective

Angara urged critics to put the new law in perspective. "We are much better off with (this law) in operation rather than any cyberspace as lawless area. Otherwise we would be opening in a huge universe without rules. It would be like an open frontier, a wild West area where anything goes," he said.

Sen. Loren Legarda and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who have expressed support for Mr. Aquino's reform agenda, both answered in the affirmative when asked if they were in favor of the removal of the provision penalizing libel in cyberspace.

"I welcome moves to immediately revise some contentious provisions of the cybercrime law while we implement provisions to bolster other alarming types of cybercrimes—child … just targeting cybercrime and computer related fraud," Legarda said in a text message.

Trillanes said he would support a move by Escudero to amend Republic Act No. 10175 and remove the provision on online libel.

"I am willing to support his bill if it would expedite the process," Trillanes told the reporters in a text message.

Amendatory bill

After admitting that the provision on online libel slipped past him, Escudero made good on his promise to file an amendatory bill to the cybercrime law to remove the increase penalty provision that included libel in the list of punishable acts under RA 10175.

"When I signed it [the committee report] it still wasn't there," Escudero said in an interview after he filed a resolution of candidacy on Tuesday.

Escudero was the chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights that was among the committees that prepared Committee Report No. 28 on the anti-cybercrime measures filed in the chamber.

The fourth member of the Liberal Party-led coalition that has expressed opposition to the online libel provision was Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

In an earlier interview, Cayetano said that while there must be some accountability on those using the Internet, the issue of the liability should be clarified so that it is not abused.

"It's a lesson to be learned not only in no. [in the Senate] but also at [the] people," Cayetano said of the passionate opposition to the cybercrime bill after it was enacted.

"These weren't brought up before, at least not [in passionately]," he said.

Honasan, who also signed Committee Report No. 50, said he was in favor of removing the libel provision but added that he'd like to hear what the Supreme Court had to say on the constitutionality.

Honasan is the chair of the Senate committee on public information and mass media. "This is premature," he said of the advisory public reaction to the online libel provision.

The Senate journal for Jan. 24 showed it was during the consideration on second reading in the plenary of Committee Report No. 50 on Senate Bill No. 2796 (the Senate version of the cybercrime prevention bill) than the inclusion of libel among the punishable acts was made.

It was proposed by Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

The bill's sponsor, Angara, said cyberspace was just a new medium for publishing or communicating a libelous statement which is subject to prosecution and punishment to be filed by the Revised Penal Code.

Sotto's proposal was adopted by the Senate without any objection. Shortly afterward, the chamber approved its version of the anti-cybercrime act without any objection.

The approval on second reading of SB 2796 happened during the morning session of the Senate. The afternoon session at the time were dedicated to the impeachment trial of then Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The Senate journal on Jan. 18 showed that when following session convened the roll call began, Fu Guerrero, Jinggoy Estrada, Juan Ponce Enrile, Escudero, Honasan, Panfilo Lacson, Lito Lapid, Aquilino Pimentel III, Ramon Revilla Jr., Sotto, Trillanes and Villar.

The following arrived after the roll call: Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Franklin Drilon, Teofisto Guingona III, Sergio Osmeña III and Francis Pangilinan.

Bicam committee

Congressional records said the bicameral conference committee that reconciled the disagreeing provisions of the Senate and House versions of the anti-cybercrime law was led by Angara and Tagaig Rep. Sigfrido Tinga, chair of the House committee on information communication technology.

Other lawmakers present at the bicam meeting were Taliban, Pantabangan Rep. Rodolfo Estes, Tudac Rep. Sonny Yap, Western Samar Rep. Mel Senen Sarmiento, Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas and Cotabato City Cesar Sarmiento.

Home Minority Leader Danilo Suarez said he would file a bill seeking to change the provisions on libel committed online.

Another lawmaker, Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, said he would submit to the objection to the cybercrime law's libel provision would be to decriminalize libel. With reports from AFP

P-Noy moves to allay cyber fears

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refuge," Lacierda said at a televised Malacañang briefing.

"Instead of inquiring how we should be always telling the people our Constitution is there to protect our rights and that President is there to serve and to protect and to defend the Constitution. That is our guarantee," he added.

On the first day of the effectivity of Republic Act No. 10175, hackers threatened to shut down many websites in protest of its unconstitutional provisions.

At least seven petitions questioning its provisions, including one imposing a higher penalty on online libel and another authorizing the Department of Justice (DOJ) to shut down any site with harmful content based on prima facie evidence, are pending in the Supreme Court.

"Today is the first day of the implementation of the law. We have all the time in the world for martial law. There is freedom of expression," Lacierda said. "We have not stopped anyone from expressing their concerns."

Amid the brief, Lacierda reminded Filipinos that there is a treasury of the Constitution which guarantees civil liberties.

"Let us bear in mind the law that binds us all. The Constitution. Our Constitution is clear and unambiguous in the civil liberties it guarantees all our people. As the basic law, to guarantee extent, and will not, be diminished or reduced by any law passed by Congress," he said, reading from a prepared statement.

Lacierda continued: "The administration is equally adamant in upholding these liberties, which were regained at such high cost by our people."

Lacierda said that no government exists "bent on denying its citizens access to the Internet or to suppress any of their liberties as exercised online."

"In fact what has stirred place is that hackers who claim to be aligned with critics of the cybercrime act are the ones who have targeted the online institutions, depriving the broader public of access to much needed government information and services online," he said.

Lacierda, however, said that something must be done when a website posts the identities and addresses of people with AIDS, and it turns out that they they were not suffering from it.

"Seriously, there will be instances where abuse on the expression will be done. So how does one control that?" he said.

Dialogue

As protests and hacking threatened to go out of hand, Malacañang broached a dialogue between Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and "all stakeholders" before the crafting of the law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

"We urge the fullest and widest participation of stakeholders in the IRR process," Lacierda said in the statement.

Lacierda, however, said that the IRR would not carve the provisions being questioned in the high tribunal. "The worst cannot rise above the source … for the IRR is bound by the law itself," he said.

Prudent

De Lima said the administration would be "very prudent" in implementing the new law.

She pointed out that the DOJ, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) had yet to come up with the law's IRR.

"We will gradually handle that matter and very prudently because of the objections being raised and pending petitions against the law in the Supreme Court. So, even if there's no TRO (temporary restraining order) from the high court, I think the implementation would not be fully effective anyway since there will no IRR," she said.

Selective

De Lima said the authorities would be very selective. "Maybe it's only in the cases of palpable criminal acts conducted or committed through information and communication technology that law enforcement authorities should address," she said.

De Lima said the DOJ would immediately call for a meeting of the DILG to find out how the IRR could be aired in "clarifying or harmonizing those so-called objectionable portions."

However, she maintained that she has yet to find any unconstitutional provision in the law.

"From my reading of the law, I have yet to see what (others) are claiming to be unconstitutional. If some sections are worried about the libel provision, I am in the opinion that libel remains to be a criminal offense under the Revised Penal Code," De Lima said.

"Whether or not that is committed online, that is still punishable under the Revised Penal Code," she said.

De Lima said the focus of the creative should instead be "the propriety, the legality and the advisability" of the law's provision that imposes a higher penalty for crimes committed online.

She also defended the law's provision giving the secretary of justice the power to block online content if there are used in criminal acts.

"There should be no objection there … if you look at other jurisdictions, law enforcement authorities have that power if it is provided by an investigation," De Lima said.

De Lima said the IRR would clearly set the standards and thresholds that authorities authorities to block or restrict access to erring websites.

Oppose vandalism

Malacañang called on critics to speak out against online vandalism and bullying "in the much vigor and common as they have espoused in their objections to certain provisions of the law."

"If our freedoms have been hard won, it would do us all well to remember that the cost, righteous harm the cause of freedom of expression and civil liberties for all sentient," Lacierda said.

"As the President said on Sept. 27, the rigorous exchange of ideas that is the hallmark of a vibrant democracy requires those who disagree not to suppress others," he added.

Discussions posted online

After hearing the hours of the committee, Malacañang has posted excerpts of Senate deliberations on the bill, from its sponsorship by Sen. Edgardo Angara in the deliberation by the bicameral conference committee, at www.gov.ph.

"We have gathered all the discussions at several dates between 2011 and 2012 and they are now online for everyone to see and to review how the law came about," Lacierda said.

He said that the provisions on online libel was "inserted" during the bicameral conference committee.

"That's why there has been misinformation on that point," he said. "There are reasonable limitations and that's the reason why we are saying the Constitution is there."

As to crackdown" provision, which allows the DOJ to shut down websites with harmful content, was introduced during the former deliberation, according to Lacierda.

"The emphasis has been as to the need to uphold the Constitution. But if you look at the sponsorship statement of Senator Angara, the policy is very clear. We have no legal framework on addressing cybercrimes specifically as certain areas like cybersex, hacking, cybercrime; we have cyber fraud. And to this is the background where Senator Angara justified for the cybercrime [law]," he said.

NBI says it has traced at least 20 'hacktivists'

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Private: C. Gloucaba and others.

"Anonymous is a worldwide group, but not organized. It's a loose group with no definite agenda and does hacking for fun and for its ego. It has no leader," the victim said.

Sinclao said the NBI had traced at least 20 suspects in the hacking of various government agencies.

"The individuals will be charged with hacking and violation of the cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012," he said.

As the Cybercrime Prevention Act took effect yesterday, anonymous operators Philippines teamed up in the hacking of a number of government websites as a sign of protest.

Included in the list of targeted websites were:

- MM.gov.ph – National Bureau of Investigation
- Bsp.gov.ph – Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- Senate.gov.ph – Philippine Senate
- Bi.gov.ph – Bureau of Internal Revenue
- Doh.gov.ph – Department of Health
- Congress.gov.ph – Philippine Congress
- Dswd.gov.ph Twitter account – Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Presidency.gov.ph – Office of the President
- Dfa.gov.ph – Official website of Sec. Albert Del Rosario

Other websites hacked or defaced since last week included:

- Mfrm.gov.ph – Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
- Anchampchilippines.com – American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc.
- Ntc.gov.ph – National Telecommunications Commission
- Pia.gov.ph – Philippine Information Agency
- Pnp.gov.ph – Philippine National Police
- Bir.com.ph – Food Develop. Inter Control

- pagci.org.ph – Filipinos As to Police Team

Senator Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday ordered the NBI to go after hackers who defaced government websites.

De Lima said there was a clear line between legitimate expressions of dissent and criminal acts.

"Disagreeing with certain actions of the law or questioning the legislative intent is an exercise in romantic crimes—defacing websites whether for government or not, disrupting essential operations and services and causing damage to scarce resources," she said.

The new law punishes acts against the integrity of computer systems like illegal access and interception, data and system interference, misuse of devices and cyber-squatting, De Lima said.

The Department of Justice acknowledged that the defacement of government websites was a security concern as it posed a "threat" to government websites and other services to the public.

Defense department spokesperson Peter Paul Galvez urged "hacktivists" to use legal means to air their protest against certain provisions in the Cybercrime Prevention law.

"There are several other means for people to express their grievances other than hacking or defacing websites. (Hacking) will do no good," Galvez told reporters.

Sinclao said the NBI website had not been hacked. "There was an attempt to penetrate our website using the distributed denial service attack or DDOS, which started at 1 a.m. on Wednesday," he told reporters.

"DDOS is a method where several users will try to access the website at the same time which will lead to the shutdown of response time of the host site," he explained.

Sinclao said the NBI shut down its website briefly due to the attack at around 7:20 a.m. yesterday. "In a DDOS attack, the option is to shut down the website to prevent the site to crash," he said.

"Normally DDOS always comes with botnet, with zombie computers that give commands," he added.

Sinclao said the NBI probe showed that the attempt to hack the bureau's website was by came from Metro Manila, particularly Makati City. With reports from NIKKO Dizon and Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavidora
Associate Editor Francis T. J. Delos Reyes

SPORTS

Painters turn back Boosters

By Mayograil R. Castillo

PLAYING on a champion team for the first time, Rain or Shine star might chopped down fancied Petron Blaze with conviction, 102-86, even with the Elasto Painters making their PBA Philippine Cup debut without their biggest star.

The Hotmen, who won their first league title in last season's Governors' Cup, grabbed control in the third period and never lost grip of it at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Petron Blaze coach Siot Tanquingcen said after replacing the big men, but it was clear that his squad outplayed the Boosters and took the highly hyped No. 1 overall pick Jun Mar Fajardo out of his comfort zone for the lopsided win.

"At 1 said before the game, this is the best time to play Petron," Tanquingcen told reporters. "They're still in transition and they'll be a lot dangerous in another three to four games. We were lucky we were their first loser."

Jeff Chan scored 20 points and the Painters duet came to 52 points from two potent scorers in breaking free from what had been a close first half to join Barangay Ginebra San Miguel and Barako Bull as debut winners.

Rain or Shine played without last season's Rookie of the Year Paul Lee and Sherwin Meneses in Orlando Bello's team debut.

It was a homecoming for Bello, a product of a hometown pool.

The Painters were lead in the second quarter by Fajardo, who finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds, suffering a small cut in the left eyebrow with 11:26 left in the fourth period after getting entangled with Ryan Arana and Jerry Cruz.

Arnold Tubid scored 10 out of Barako Bull's 16 in the first quarter and keyed a 30-27 victory over Air21 in the first game.

The veterans-laden Energy Colts got more than adequate help originated by from the much-maligned Ard Linsangan with five minutes to the halftime until Tubid's layups sealed the outcome.

RD CHARLES (right) of No 21 tries to screen off Bonito Bell's Sean Anthony during a loose ball scramble. ARIEL JAVIER

Koreans show way in Cangolf Am Open

KIM IN-JAE of Eagle Ridge started on the back nine in five-2-3 under par 69 in the solo and post a three-stroke lead over fellow Korean Park Gyu-Jin of Sherwood at the start of the Condaberg Amateur Open of Cangolf's north course in Laguna yesterday.

Kim came up with a birdie-birdie start at the back then knocked down another birdie on the par-5 sixth to the lone under-par conclusion tough day at the par-72 layout.

Park tumbled two of the last five holes to collage a 72 while Jordan Manuel, Shiva are the greenie 35 start with a shaky finish, beginning the first two holes for a 75.

Rupert Zaragoza, one of the closest foes in the Subdu event serving as part of Eagle Ridges Amateur Golf Circuit, was seven par after 12 holes but sputtered with two bogeys in the last three holes for a 74 and solo fourth.

Another Cangolf Bad, Ana Sikanen, carded a 73 for joint fifth with Korean Yoon Sung-Jeong and Filipino Jeffrey Ong.

Aydin Gonzalez's Norman skin Rose rallied with a 37 for a 77, the same output by Cangolf's Nicholas Sandoval and Gabriel Mercene and Agustin Mata.

Mikala Mas, the Korean Red from Apo who rescued growth Sand Rover to win the Down National Pro-Am recently, never recovered from a poor start, dropping three strokes in the first three holes for a 79 like Kim Sun-seong and Lawrence Calabio of Eagle Ridge. Al shots off the pace with two rounds left in the annual event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and backed by Interior House and Cangolf.

Meanwhile, ICTSI The Country Club foursomes Jarvis Agapo and Cyrus Rodriguez the coach effort age 6 only as they bright check clean for the women's crown of the 36-hole championship.

Agapo, the reigning Saint Cup individual champion, and Rodriguez, who topped Agapo in the playoff to capture the Hong Kong Amateur Open crown last month, will start on No. 10 at 7 a.m. at the North course with Apulo Gonzalez of country 98s Lagoon.

Memo to MVP: Revolt brewing at POC

BARE EYE

Revolt Trimdad

ish DETROIT power pole, a coup, you understand.

But, just the same, there has always been that impose chance for positive leadership change in the Philippine olympic committee.

This will conclude no more prime-time member-consultant performance by Jose Philippines, headed by the power prone Peping Cojuangco Jr., in the six-year London Olympics.

The dearly and most unflattering is Philippine sports, appointed sicko Cojuangco. And one only resident in dictatorship and the hobbled supporters of the Filipino athlete.

The perennial debacles had disillusioned and turned many countless young talents from pursuing some full time sports involvement for the country.

Naturally, there were some silent demands for Cojuangco, branded as lazy and loopy, to do the honorable thing by stepping down with his grizzled minions, to give way to competent and responsible operations.

Cojuangco, under fire, refused to budge.

The busy full-time politician-turned sullened power-sharing with the triple- weaponed system Manny V. Pangilinan. Cojuangco asked MVP to come up with him in his flash in the same POC polls.

• • •

Bid Cojuangco brazenly flash the Hollywood treatment.

The contrasting POC head was given to surrender.

There was some report Cojuangco had also offered to push his henchmen to the divided POC slate to accommodate MVP.

MVP refused to even meet.

He could be expected, Pangilinan was himself acquainted to challenge for the POC presidency.

MVP keeps his cards close to his chest.

• • •

A pay-more followed as MVP's aides-in-waiting up with Cojuangco was administrative president Go Teng Kok.

Go said MVP joining the Cojuangco gang would've been inconsistent to subsidizing a scandal.

Anyway, there followed a suspension. Relentless.

"With no positive developments in the POC polls neared, Go Teng Kok resigned and offered to step down.

He officially disbursed yesterday he's challenging Cojuangco. (See retrieved story on Page A23.)

Announced Go: "I'm recalling it's no for POC president some November this year. Peping Cojuangco cannot accept my challenge. He must not expect to the workaholics he endowed to disqualify opponents like me."

Go said he had heard Cojuangco would disqualify him from the race because he has been declared a persona non grata in the POC.

"I will remain a transparency motivating order (TRO)," Go said. "Cong not win in his dirty election game but in court. I've let people know Peping has been doing nothing for 6 years and yet he still wants another term to gobbling the agony of PH sports."

• • •

Is there anything else could dissuade him from running?

"Yes, of course Mr. Money Pangilinan. I know he himself is disturbed over the tremendous confusion of efforts in the POC. Otherwise, he would've acceded to Cojuangco's offer to share power."

Fine time to send a message to MVP!

"Am still be reasoned, priority goodwill followed if you worked again to cripple POC president. With your record and undiminished dedication to sports, you'd be a sure winner."

Does GEN. Jackie RDF would have any need for the POC presidency?

"Of course, he doesn't need it any more. But he's the only one who could rescue Philippine sports from the pop of these gangsters."

Evil is Philippine sports needs to destroy against MVE LITE unchained.

• • •

CONFETTI! is CONFETTIED! Two of the most exceptional and committed newcomers are had the luck of having worked such passed on one other the other in a spate of ten days. Missioner Jovi Salonga and the quiet but effective basketball expert Butch Mumbay will be sorely missed. He can proven best coin game ever. Thanks for the wonted remembrance, also.)

PBA opening draws high TV ratings

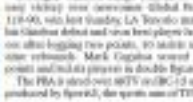
THE 36th season of the Philippine Basketball Association is off to a good start, if TV ratings are the basis.

According to Nielsen Media, the opening game between Barangay Ginebra and Globalport drew a national rating of 2.7 percent or over 1.1 million viewers, an increase of 31 percent in viewership compared to last year's opening.

Smart Araneta Coliseum was also packed to the rafters with 18,951 spectators to witness.

Barangay Ginebra Kings cruised to an easy victory over newcomer Global Port, 119-90, win last Sunday. LA Tenorio made his Ginebra debut and seven best players became other logging two points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. Mark Caguioa scored 16 points and tied as players in double figures.

The PBA is aired over ABS-CBN (2) and broadcasted by Sports5, the sports unit of TV5.



16th Sletba Open rolls off Oct. 6

OVER 300 bowlers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces are expected to participate in the 16th Sta. Lucia Taxi Drivers Bowling Association (Sletba) Open tilt which starts on Saturday.

The annual tournament will roll at 1 p.m. at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall bowling center in Cainta, Rizal, after simple opening rites to be attended by the executive officers and board members of the Philippine Bowling Congress led by its president, Ted Lopa, as well as members of the various bowling associations.

Dr. Joey Mendiola, Sletba president, said more than P400,000 in cash prizes await the winners in the Masters, Graded Masters, Associate Masters, and Amateur (men's and women's) categories.

The tournament ends on Oct. 14 with the bedding of the finals for the Masters division. Last Wonder topped the event last year.

The tournament will be held in cooperation with Phil General Construction & Supply, Marikina Rubber, SIG, Lodtest Construction, Sletba, Globalite, Smart Boss, College of San Beda—Rizal, Club Banana and Zic Body & Foot Spa. The Interior is the event's official media partner.

For more details, please log on to www.sletba.com

Alcalas log badminton triumphs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GIRLIE D'ALMEDRAS sees Venice and Mark Alcala plucked gold medals in their respective divisions in the recent Swiss International Junior Badminton Championships.

The 16-year-old Alcala defeated England's Nathalie Rothschild, 21-7, 21-17, in the women's Junior Boys Belgium's Rhain Orsay, 21-5 (retired) to take the crown.

Her 13-year-old brother scored a thrilling upset over 2nd-seed, 4-foot-9 Sean Vendy of England, 3-21, 21-9, 21-12.

Philippine Badminton Association secretary general Rep. Albee Benitez lauded the siblings' feat which he described as a "major step toward the right direction" for PH badminton.

"We are very, very happy because our hard work is starting to pay off, the results are coming in and the proves we are doing the right thing," said Benitez, who last May faced Olympic champion Boris Mikolajczyk of Indonesia to head the country's badminton program.

Already Benitez requested that the state's Games of Asia Magazine and Sports Excises bolted to 10000 in the world rankings after languishing in the high 2000 two months before.

The PH shuttlers are sponsored by Barge Resources and Sunset Communications. Also providing support to the team is Ovava.

PAL [VIVIAN] Ana Venice Alcala (third from left) and brother Mark Alcala (second from left) display the gold medals they won at the recent Swiss International Junior Badminton Championships. With them are Philippine Badminton Association president Jennifer "Ning" Ramos (left) and PBA secretary general Rep. Albee Benitez.

La Salle gals forge hoop title showdown with FEU

By Jurnalou M. Poyo

LA SALLE salvaged a title showdown with the unbeaten Far Eastern University in women's basketball as University of Santo Tomas completed a turn-around episode to unseat UAAP action.

Jennelle Abiera had an all-around game of 20 points, 18 rebounds, eight assists, two steals and a couple of blocks as the Lady archers downed Adamson, 80-73, in their semifinals to advance to the championship for the first time in 10 years since the 4 Final Flying V season.

UST accomplish, captained the seven's, women's and juniors titles to now behind Most Valuable Player Al Bolan Lizzan and forced de Castro over the weekend to Mercy Alajare Stadium.

The Tigers stormed 30 points to cop their second straight title, while the Tamaraws extended their reign to three seasons after topping with 35 points. The Tigre Cubs also scored a breakthrough by snapping season's six-year reign.

La Salle knew the formidable FEU squad, which holds a huge three-to-four advantage, in the women's cage finals starting this Sunday.

The Lady Tamaraws earned the honors by taking with no to outright title both after sweeping the 14-game eliminations.

Eddie Reyes drilled in 17 points to let the Lady Archers.

IPPCA pre-season football kicks off Oct. 14

By Jasmine W. Payo

MARIETY football action gets an early push when the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) launches the sport's first pre-season tournament this month.

IAMP Varsity co-host champion University of the Philippines and San Beda, the squad that has reigned in 16 of the last 17 NCAA seasons, honour the 16-team men's field when the 2012 IPPCA Pre-Season Football Cup flies off on Oct. 14 at Stadi in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"All the IPPCA members are supportive of the idea that are should do something to help in youth development," said Pet Martinez, the league chair and president of IPPCA, an organization composed of the country's independent oil players.

"We can already see our kabisi team beating some of the countries that we couldn't beat before. So what more if we focus on our youth."

Organizer Olail Flying V Sports, the same group that has established the summer varsity basketball tournament, has lured the topnotch teams to gauge their readiness months before action in the UAAP and NCAA gets going.

"They've had a head start and it has been accepted as a permanent tournament in basketball, so we want to have the same exposure in football," Martinez said during the press launch at 7020 Gastrobar in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

Other UAAP teams joining the Maroon and Red are Ateneo, La Salle, Far Eastern University, National University, University of the East and University of Santo Tomas.

NCAA teams St. Benilde, Mapúa, Perpetual Help, Arellano, Emilio Aguinaldo College and Lyceum also figure to be action along with guest teams Final Tech redesigned University and University of Makati.

"Football is the most popular sport in the world, and five to 20 years down the line, we can see the competitiveness heightened here," said Martinez.

Joey Guillermo, league co-chair and PFF Sports general coordinator, said democratic rules will receive together with scholarships worth P50,000 to the men's division and P25,000 to the juniors.

La Salle Green Hills, which is gunning for a record 11th straight NCAA juniors title, and UAAP juniors back-to-back winner FEU-Diliman head the juniors unit composed of Ateneo, La Salle Zobel, FEU Science Beda, Letrán, San Sebastian, Arellano, Perpetual Help and Easter.

MARTINEZ

GUILLERMO

PFF recalls Y'husbands for Middle East camp

By Cedelf P. Topas

ON THE day when Philippine football notched its highest ranking in history, the national side also moved to further strengthen its roster for the Middle East camp aimed to prepare the squad for the AFF Suzuki Cup.

The Philippines earned up three places to 147 in the latest rankings released by the International Football Federation (FIFA) which crowned the Azkals' stunning 2-0 victory over Singapore last month.

The wins in the recent Suzuki Aburaya Peace Cup, which the Azkals ruled, could be counted in the new release of the rankings.

In a recent statement of intent, the national side recalled leading two-national scorer Phil Younghusband and Creamline Jaiaire for the camp in Bahrain scheduled late this month, after they were dropped from the lineup in the Peace Cup due to commitment issues.

"Despite this unprecedented feat, we are well aware that our will have so much work to do and we want to build on the success of our title victory and glean from it as an important lesson that now, more evidence in the Azkals' unfolding FIFA matchwatch world," Azkals manager Dan Palami said. "After careful consideration, the management has decided to include Phil and Jaiaire Younghusband in this training camp. Both all-stays remain assets to the Azkals and remain part of the team."

Palami said the PFF has already sent a request to Loyola Meralco Sparks, asking for the forwards' release for the Middle East camp.

NCAA: Gevorgian (right) will be a vital cog for Perpetual Help. ALBERTO BACDAYAN

Perpetual, JRU eye s'final slots

PERPETUAL Help and Jose Rizal U fight for their Final Four lives when they take on opposite rivals today in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Altas play their final game of what has been an impressive season to reach last slot Bonnets against the struggling San Sebastian Stags at 4 p.m.

Perpetual Help is also keeping a close eye on the 2PM Emilio Aguinaldo College match at 4 p.m., which could also determine its Final Four fate.

The scenario is complicated for both the Altas and the Bombers. If the Bombers prevail, they will be assured of a playoff for a Final Four berth regardless of the result of the second game.

But if JRU wins and Perpetual Help loses to San Sebastian, the Bombers will clinch the Final Four, while the Altas will be eliminated despite enjoying their first winning season since 2004.

A victory by the Altas will also assure them of a playoff for a Final Four berth. But if JRU loses and Perpetual wins, the semifinal cast will be complete with Letran and San Sebastian joining San Beda in the mix.

The Stags are coming off last to back-losses to Letran and JRU, which hurt their chances of gaining an outright Final Four slot.

Now, the Stags are also staring at the possibility of falling into a five-game tie for the three remaining Final Four berths.

Calvin Abueva upskilled in the loss to the Bombers with a 20-point, 20-rebound effort, but Ronald Dennis's struggles continued as he was limited to just five points.

Mercyl Joe scored 16 points per outing in the last three games, going 3-of-13 from beyond the arc.

The Altas also have a reliable scorer in Ben Mbala, whose 20-point effort against San Beda wasn't enough to prevent Perpetual from losing, 53-60.

With Nate Minnie gasping for form, the Bombers hope to draw another big game from Sherwin Villarias, who exploded for 26 points against the Stags.

The Generals will have Cameroonian center Nonlee Happi, a stiwa in for Bonifer of the Wes Bonnets, to carry the fight. Cedelf P. Topas

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	11	1
Letrán	11	1
Perpetual Help	7	5
Lyceum	6	6
Mapúa	5	7
Arellano	5	7
JRU	5	7
EAC	3	9
Mapúa	2	10
San Sebastian	2	10
Emilio Aguinaldo	0	14
Benilde	4	14
Lyceum	3	13

GAMES TODAY
(Filoil Flying V Arena)
12 n.n. —JRU vs. San Sebastian (2nd)
2 p.m. —Arellano vs. Mapúa
4 p.m. —Perpetual Help vs. San Sebastian (2nd)
6 p.m. —Benilde vs. Lyceum

GTK takes crack at POC head Peping

BY Marc Anthony Reyes

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok is launching a "Quixotic" campaign for the Philippine Olympic Committee presidency.

The outspoken leader of one of the most efficient national sports associations for more than 20 years yesterday announced plans to run against two-term POC chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. in May 30.

While Go commands a handful of NSA votes, he admitted that he is "no match" against Cojuangco in the polls.

"Times no chance of winning against him. He won easy," said Go. "But I'm doing this to awaken my fellow NSA leaders to step up at the plate and bring to the much needed change. My declaration is a wake-up call to all NSA heads. I believe there's one among you who is more than qualified to challenge and eventually beat Peping."

Go added that if another NSA official decides to run for the POC top post, he would withdraw his candidacy and instead throw his support behind him.

Go also ran for the POC presidency and lost to Celso Dee in 2000. He encouraged Cojuangco to run in 2008 and eventually became his campaign manager in a falling out with the POC as head of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Meanwhile, Cojuangco-refocused NSA dedication to oppose him.

"I want him (Go) to run and see how many votes he will get," said Cojuangco after yesterday's POC general assembly attended by 37 of 53 national sports association representatives.

With a report from Anna Navarro

GO TENG KOK

Archers, Kaya battle to 1-1 draw

By Cedelf P. Topas

SILVERIO Teding Paulhan struck four minutes from time as Green Archers United held fancied Kaya to a 1-1 draw Tuesday night in the Orlando Plaschall League Cup at Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Nate Berkey gave Kaya the lead with a fifth minute strike, but missed a host of chances that could have put the game away for his side in an underwhelming Group B clash.

Paulhan equalized through an indirect free kick from 30 yards out after referee Jerry Hinggo caught Kaya goalkeeper John Cannawerah unleashing a back pass from Nico Bolzico.

The Archers still needed a comeback from goalkeeper Patrick Deyto in the final minutes to rescue a point, even as Ken Moffitt received a couple of chances.

The ruin seemed to bring the best out of the two squads as they got off to lively starts with Kaya knocking the ball around with confidence and Green Archers looking threatening in the counterattack.

Meanwhile, UPL side Loyola Meralco takes on Singapore powerhouse Tampines Rovers in the first leg of their Singapore Cup semifinal clash Oct. 30 at the Clementi Stadium in Singapore.

Phil and James Younghusband will lead the Sparks against the S.League side.

Davao wakeboarder pulls off upset

DAVAO's pride Zain Stephenson shows off his skills.

BIRYAL, Davao—While top PH female rider Samantha Bermudez continued her four-year-old straight win, Davao pride Zach Stephenson emerged the biggest surprise and captured the Open Wakeboard men's crown recently in the second stop of the 2012 Wakeboard Association of the Philippines (WAP) Series (PSN) presented by Unleaded Action at Isca Hotel Davao Wake Park here.

Bermudez topped the top place in the Open Women's Wakeboard via a repeat over Andrea Tamayo with 4pts symbols claiming third place honors in this event organized by the Pilipinas Boarding and Wakeskiing Association of the Philippines (PWASF) under the helm of president Jr Bermudez.

Only two Manila top guns—Junior Men's champion and Open Wakeskate Junior Men's runner-up Angelo Limot and Hunter Men's champion JV Tamayo—managed to pull through with major title clinching feats.

Joshua Stephenson clinched the Open Wakeskate men's title.

Highlanders dominate WGAP leg

TAGAYTAY Highlands swept one division titles while finishing third in the other in the penultimate leg of the 2012 Champion Infinity WGAP Circuit presented by Purepoint at Tagaytay Highlands recently.

Bandit Ilao fired 39 points, Andy Sia and Ben Wong added a pair of 36 while Randy Nario-Bonnaddal scored 35 points under the Modified Stableford scoring system for Highlands, which posted a 146 and beat Camp Aguinaldo by 12 for the Class A crown.

Other members of the host club in the 10-to-play four-as-count event, organized by Manuel's Golf Association of the Philippines, were Oliver Yson, Rebecca Alfort, Gini Fernando, Malou Flores, Gie Benedicto and Weronica Nolasco.

Aguinaldo amassed a 134 as Mario Salcedo shot a 37 and took the individual crown while Mabel Salinas, Merle Guerrero and Josie Uriarte added 34, 32 and 30 points, respectively. Sta. Elena, led by Carole Beaumont's 33 points, placed third with a 128.

Forest Hills and Orchard teamed in 126s while Alabang had a 125 in the maximum.

Tagaytay Highlands also ruled Class B, scoring a 132 for an 18-point romp over Villamor, which had a 114. Camp Aguinaldo was third with a 112 followed by Sta. Elena (111), Alabang (105), Forest Hills Club (103) and Orchard (91).

Ron Sia fast led the front-charge with a 36 as Ramon Ang, Rey Marquez, Dominique Canal Martinez Ilanas handed her squad's 40, 36 and 34 points, respectively.

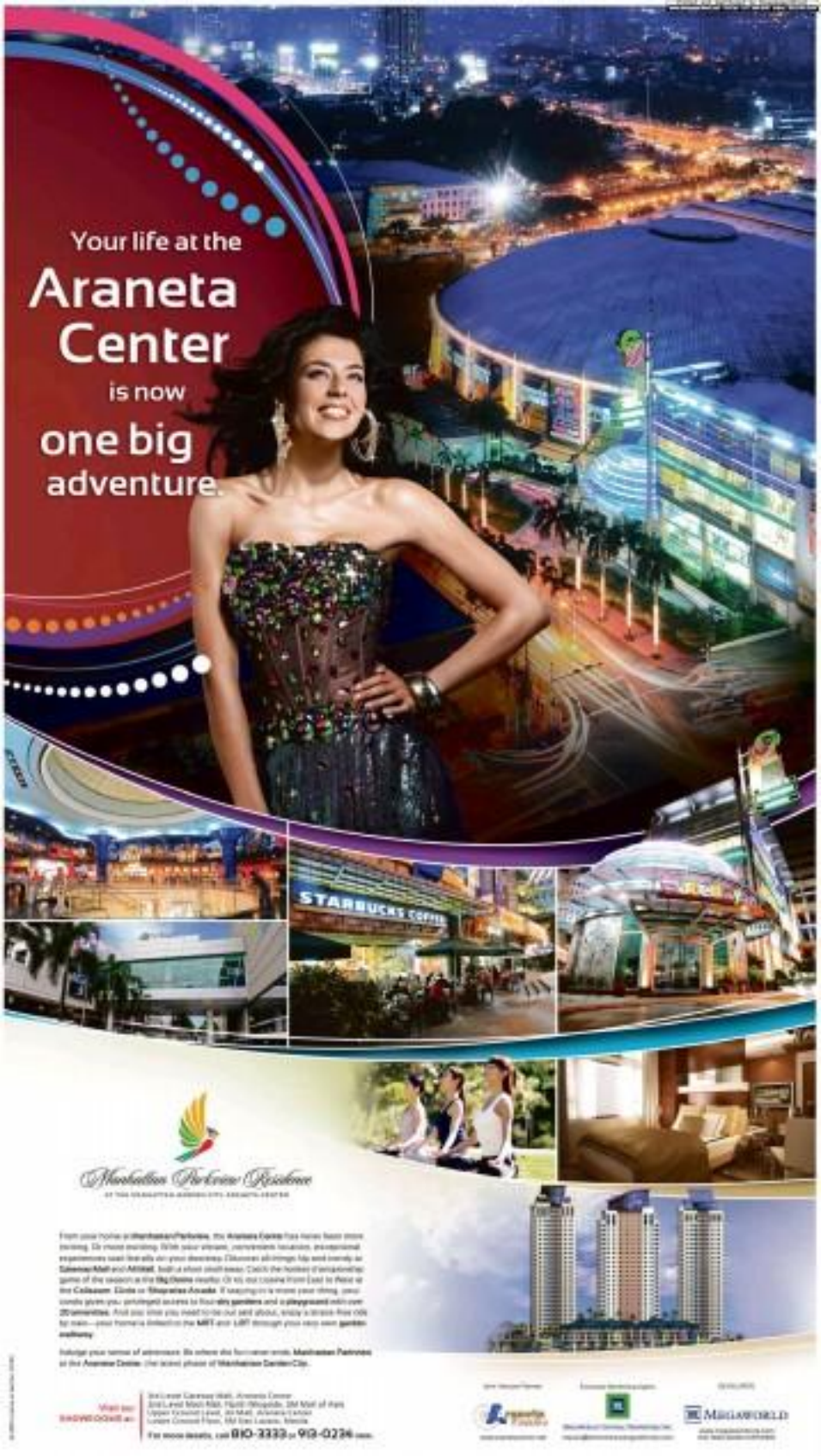
Palawan netfest resumes

THE PUERTO PALAWAN Years-Group Regional Age-Group Championships presented by Bahodor gave us Mindanao with a five-leg schedule in the region's key cities beginning with the Davao stage tomorrow. "This is the chance for the Mindanao youth to showcase their talent and skills and we expect to produce another batch of promising players throughout the five-leg circuit," said Phillip presidens Rep. Edwin Olivarez.

The circuit, put up by Palawan Pawnshop and Bahodor in their continuing effort to help develop the sport and produce future stars who could be tapped to spearhead the national team in various international competitions, has held tournaments in four cities of Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu.

For details, call Bobby Mangaoang at 0923-4046464 or e-mail bobbymangaoang@yahoo.com.

VASELINE MEN (From left) Vaseline Men brand manager Jonathan Poa with teammates for the new stars in the Vaseline Men Xtorm/Philippine Team Dr. Martin Carnara, Hector Yuson, Mark Hernandez, Kelly Zamora, Carlo de Guzman, Reig Pioquinto and Jimo Salvan



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Araneta Center

Megaworld

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINE Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Quezon City offers accommodations for pet owners who have no yard space to bury their pets. They also offer a pet memorial wall where owners can dedicate memorial tiles for their pets.
Ariane Bautista, Inquirer Research

Incumbents eye easy win in 2013 polls

Binay defends 'dynasty of service,' Erice quits race

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Nikko Calleja

WITH no serious candidates posing a threat to their bid to run for another term, three incumbent mayors—Herbert Bautista of Quezon City, Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr. of Makati City and Benhur Abalos of Mandaluyong City—seem poised to win handily in next year's polls.

One of them, however, is not about to take things for granted.

"Anybody is a threat," Bautista said yesterday after he filed his certificate of candidacy (COC) in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) head office along with members of his slate who are running under the Liberal Party ticket.

According to him, he has learned never to underestimate his opponents who as of yesterday numbered just one—67-year-old Sachehar Matero Archelo who ran against then Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. in 2007.

Archelo was also the first mayoral bet to intimidate his intention to run when he went to the Comelec office on Monday, the first day for the filing of COCs.

According to Bautista, he respects everyone's right to seek public office and will not underestimate their ability to get votes.

Asked if he had heard of former Gen. Robert Araneta Sr.'s plan to seek the mayoralty, Bautista said he hoped the basketball legend would not do so because he did not want the city divided by politics.

There have been reports that Araneta will run for mayor with Rep. Vicente "Bingbong" Crisologo as his vice mayor.

QUEZON City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joselito Belmonte, both incumbents, are another term as they file their COCs accompanied by Belmonte's father, House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., and other supporters. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Bautista, on the other hand, is running with incumbent Vice Mayor Josefina Belmonte, Belmonte's daughter.

In Makati, a heavy downpour failed to dampen the festive atmosphere at the local Comelec office when Junjun Binay led other United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) candidates in filing their COCs.

Leading his supporters were his father Vice President Jejomar Binay, wife Elenita, a band and yellow shirt-wearing supporters who came with their umbrellas.

With the younger Binay were his running mate Maybelle A. de Veyra, 36 candidates seeking seats in the city council, his sister Rep. Mar Len Abigail Binay-Campos (District II) who, with Rep. Monsour Sinsuat Legbaseen (District I), is running for reelection.

Waiting game

Asked if he knew who he would be going up against for the mayor's seat, Junjun Binay said: "Let's wait until 8:00 day. We don't have any information [about that yet]."

As for accusations that they were perpetuating a political dynasty in the city, he replied: "This is a dynasty of service. If the Makati residents didn't want us, we wouldn't have won in the [last] elections."

INCUMBENTS, A2

Newest bus scheme takes effect in Dec.

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will start implementing its newest program for reducing traffic on Edsa—one of the busiest thoroughfares in Metro Manila—in December.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said yesterday that during a meeting with 75 of the 100 bus operators who ply routes on Edsa, the majority of them were in favor of the bus segregation scheme.

"They all approved of the plan... There was no opposition," he told reporters.

Under the bus segregation scheme, buses will be classified into groups based on their routes and assigned loading and unloading bays for their exclusive use.

It has belonging to Group A, for example, can only stop at loading and unloading bays assigned to the group. The same policy applies to buses assigned to Group B.

The third group, on the other hand, will consist of "all-stop" public utility buses or PUBs which can load or unload passengers at all bus stops for the benefit of passengers who are traveling only a short distance.

Tolentino said the new scheme is expected to reduce traffic on Edsa since buses will make fewer stops as well as prevent crowding at loading and unloading bays.

He added that the MMDA has formed a technical working group to iron out the details, including the assignment of bus stops to the different groups.

Once the kinks have been ironed out, the agency is expected to implement the new program by December.

"We are amenable to this [proposal but when] we can't predict is if this will be acceptable to our passengers. They will be the ultimate judge of this new program," said Chito Mojarrales, owner of a fleet of buses that ply the Harrison Bus Route, Laguna route.

According to him, as long as Edsa boasts [unintelligible] and [unintelligible] passengers only in Magallanes will have to exit back and wait for about a kilometer or get on another bus to get to his destination. Nikko Collera

WALL OF WISHES
A woman adds her sentiments to dozens of children's wishes written on post-its and mounted on a mural during a national conference on children's rights and welfare at the University of Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. [illegible]

Incumbents eye easy win in 2013 polls

from page A1E

In Muntinlupa, Aksiza and his running mate, incumbent Councilor Edward Ilustrisimo, filed their COCs in the local Comelec office following a Mass at a nearby church in the afternoon.

With Aksiza was his 78-year old father, former Councilor Chale Benjamin Aksiza, who is set on bail while hearings on the electoral sabotage charges against him are ongoing in the Pasay Regional Trial Court.

Sources told the Inquirer that the younger Aksiza could be pitted against incumbent Vice Mayor Danny de Guzman who is reportedly running with Rebel Dominguez, son of former city Mayor Fernando Dominguez. Both, however, have yet to file their COCs.

Similar names but no familial bases will be pitted against each other next year in Parañaque City with Councilor Florencio "Bong" Bernabe III being groomed to succeed his father, Mayor Florencio "Tito" Bernabe.

Bong Bernabe, who filed his COC on Monday, has taken for his running mate, Jose Enrico Gelua, son of incumbent Rep. Eddie Olivares and Councilor Edwin Bernabe.

They will be up against incumbent Rep. Edwin Olivares and Councilor Edwin Bernabe.

More celebrities running

Former mayor and comedian Jun Marquez is hoping to represent the city's second district under the former's party, the Bagong Demokrasya Movement Coalition.

Marquez, however, is not the only show biz celebrity running for office in the city. As of yesterday, the list of candidates for councilor included Marquez's ex-wife Alma Moreno; Ryan Yllana, TV host Anjo Yllana's brother; singer Roselle Nava; and former basketball player Jason Webb.

In Caloocan City, Reinjulge "RJ" Echiverri, son of incumbent Mayor Enrico "Recto" Echiverri and Alma Moreno, filed his COC with his running mate, Luis "Tiso" Varela.

The younger Echiverri's supporters, who described him as a capable leader who would continue his father's programs, enjoyed a free music concert in front of the Caloocan City Hall afterward.

In an unexpected move, incumbent Vice Mayor Edgar "Egay" Erice has withdrawn his bid for the mayor's seat.

"I'm not running for any position anymore, but I would continue with my advocacy," Erice told the beaten incumbent.

When pressed for the reason behind his decision, Erice only answered, "I would like to reserve further comment for another day. I have to consult a few of people first before I can say anything more."

Rumors about Erice's withdrawal broke as early as Tuesday morning but he formally announced it to community leaders who were supporting him only yesterday afternoon in a hastily called meeting.

"They were sad, especially because they know if I would really stand up for the closing moments [tonight's push]," he said, referring to the Aquino's administration slogan.

"However, I don't want to go on a battle we can't win or which will go nowhere," Erice added.

Erice, who was supposed to file his COC later this week, was reportedly considering endorsing Echiverri or the Liberal Party candidate for vice mayor. However, there was talk that the party chose to back the younger Echiverri whose father is locked in a political impasse with Erice. With Kristine Adriane Mangunay, Jaymee T. Gamil and Nathaniel B. Mielkane

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Who 'protects' QC massage parlor?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

BY PRESIDENT Noy is sincere in his "doing increased oversight and narrow push" kind of governance, how come there is no officer in the Presidential Security Group (PSG) who is perceived to be corrupt?

If the officer in my excerpt, whom did he get the money to buy four luxury vehicles, a mansion and a Mercedes Benz, among them?

At least two members of the elite presidential guards have connived to use their influence peddling on the taxi and many allowances and incentives pay of his men.

* * *

A prostitution joint masquerading as a massage parlor in Quezon City is said to bribe police cops.

It is reportedly owned by a Cabinet official.

* * *

Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon seems helpless in containing smuggling at Manila's two major ports, South Harbor and Manila International Container Port.

If he really wants to minimize smuggling, he should watch the people manning the X-ray machines at the two ports.

* * *

The estranged wife of Sen. Koko Pimentel, Senior Statistician Ma. Lourdes Sonia "Lourd" de Leon, is the new chairperson of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Lourd is a statistician by profession and has been with the PSA for 20 years.

She is the daughter of former Senate President Nene Pimentel.

Lourd's appointment is a welcome development for the PSA, which has been rocked by controversies in the past few years.

* * *

The Catholic Church has fought tooth and nail against the passage of the divorce law, making the Philippines the only country in the world that does not allow divorce.

But it allows the annulment of a marriage on the grounds mentioned above.

We're reminded of the very eloquent priest, Padre Damaso, in our national hero Jose Rizal's novel "Noli Me Tangere."

The fictional character is the father of Maria Clara, the epitome of Filipino womanhood.

* * *

I had dinner with retired Navy admirals a couple of nights ago and one of the topics of our conversation was the dismissal from the service of two Navy officers who were implicated in the alleged murder of Ensign Philip Pestaño in 1995 aboard the BRP Bacolod.

The retired admirals agreed with the sentiments of the majority in the Armed Forces that Pestaño committed suicide, and that those linked to his death were all innocent.

Cmdr. Reynaldo Lopez, who graduated valedictorian of Philippine Military Academy Class '82, and Cmdr. Leidigar Gozo, a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy, may were unlikely murderers.

Lopez, Gozo and the other accused are suffering because of the inability of the Office of the Ombudsman to appreciate the facts in the case.

EXCLUSIVE
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METROBRIEFS

Jobless man leaves cryptic suicide note

"I'LL SEND MY REGARDS to her son's ivy determination." With this cryptic hint, a jobless man hanged himself in Quezon City on the dawn of Wednesday, Sept. 26, a jobless man who plunged from the fifth floor of a mall's parking lot in Pasay City yesterday. Senior Supt. Elmer Monta, City police chief, said they found the note in the victim's wallet. The victim's relatives confirmed that it was his handwriting on the note. Police said Evangelista killed himself in the comfort room of the building where he was employed as a security guard. Investigators think he committed suicide by throwing a person or things out of a window. Police said that the victim had earlier attempted to kill himself by slashing his wrists. According to the police official, it seemed the victim had been depressed for quite some time because he could not find work. Jeannette Andrade

Classes suspended in QC due to heavy rains

CLASSES were suspended Sept. 26 due to heavy rains which caused flooding in some areas. The announcement, however, was made at 10 a.m., several hours after students were forced to leave the heavy downpour to go to their schools. According to the Quezon City Police District Tactical Operations Center, the morning rains led to gutter-deep floods in some thoroughfares in Quezon City although these remained passable to all kinds of vehicles. Only Commonwealth Avenue in Barangay Bgy. Batasan Hills and Tandang Sora in Barangay Bgy. Tandang Sora and Sauyo in Barangay Bgy. Sauyo flooded until knee-deep water and rendered impassable to light vehicles. Jeannette I. Andrade

Tau Omega Mu marks 40th year

TAU Omega Mu (TOM) Fraternity and Ladies' Circle will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Oct. 13 with the TOM National Capital Region at Iloilo. Alumni from all chapters are requested to get in touch with Tatay Abalot at (632) 8783274 for more details.

Rains, slippery road blamed for van accident

By Jaymee T. Gamil

HEAVY rains and a slippery road were to say plunging into a roadside creek yesterday in Tagaytay City.

Reymon Umpoc, 22, the driver of the closed delivery van, carrying products and Brandless containers, lost control of the wheel as it was plying Cl. Road near Barangay Dasmariñas.

Umpoc and his two passengers, Israel Tevalo, 31, and Florendo Dural, 48, only sustained minor lacerations as a result of the accident, Tagaytay City rescue staff Joseph Bayla told the Inquirer.

The driver, however, seemed traumatized, as his arm luckily appeared to have choked him, Bayla added.

The three were rushed to the Tagaytay City hospital for treatment.

Bayla said they sought the help of the Metropolitan Manila Development Agency to remove the vehicle from the creek.

The WORLD

Edited and Designed by Dennis B. Gonzalez

France drops rape investigation of ex-IMF head Strauss-Kahn

LILLE, France—French public prosecutors have shelved an investigation into allegations that disgraced former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a onetime Cabinet minister, could become president of France, had engaged in group sex.

In a statement on Tuesday, the prosecution service said it acted after a young woman retracted an allegation against the 62-year-old, who is also fighting wider accusations of sexual misdemeanor in France and a civil case in the United States.

Strauss-Kahn's legal team welcomed what amounted to a partial victory for their client, who has asked a court to end a wider French inquiry into sex parties organized out of the northern city of Lille in which prostitutes took part.

"We are satisfied but the fight goes on," Richard Malka, a lawyer for Strauss-Kahn, told ITELE television. "This case is a monstrance and we've said it's total nonsense from the outset."

Now we're starting to prove it."

No for the rest of the case ... the presence of prostitutes at these evenings does not constitute a pimping offense," said Henri Leclerc, another Strauss-Kahn lawyer.

Strauss-Kahn was days away from announcing he would run for the French presidency in May 2012 when police arrested him in New York after a hotel maid alleged he had tried to rape her.

New York prosecutors later dropped those charges, citing concerns about the credibility of the accuser. But based amid Mediterranean Diallo is pursuing him in a civil case and his legal team has refused to step down his return to France.

In the so-called Carlton affair, named after a luxury hotel in the northern French city of Lille, investigators are trying to establish whether Strauss-Kahn participated in sex parties in a degree that amounted to actively encouraging prostitution.

Strauss-Kahn's defense team has argued from the outset that he is the victim of a witch hunt because of his self-confessed penchant for libertine sexual encounters. In France, having sex with prostitutes is not illegal, but pimping is.

The public prosecution service said that the woman behind the group rape allegation had never filed a formal complaint and had later said she was in fact a consenting participant in the incident in question.

A court is due to rule on Nov. 20 on a request that the entire French inquiry into Strauss-Kahn be dropped.

Strauss-Kahn is trying to make a comeback as an economic adviser and conference speaker. His wealthy ex-banker wife Anne Sinclair, a former star TV journalist, has scheduled her own comeback in edition of a prime news and commentary website.

A source close to Strauss-Kahn said in June that he and Sinclair had separated. Reuters

HONDURAN-STYLE campaign

US tracks killers in raid on Benghazi consulate

WASHINGTON—The United States is laying the groundwork for operations to kill or capture militants implicated in the deadly attack on a diplomatic mission in Libya, senior military and counterterrorism officials said Tuesday, as the weak Libyan government appears unable to arrest or even question fighters involved in the assault.

The top-secret Joint Special Operations Command is compiling so-called target packages of detailed information about the suspects, the officials said, working with the Pentagon and the CIA. Officers have started preparing the dossiers in the first step in anticipation of possible orders from President Barack Obama to take action against those determined to have played a role in the attack on a diplomatic mission in the eastern city of Benghazi that killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three colleagues three weeks ago.

Potential military options could include drone strikes, Special Operations raids like the one that killed Osama bin Laden and joint missions with Libyan authorities. But administration officials say no decisions have been made on any potential targets.

Spokespersons for the defense department and CIA declined to comment.

The preparations underscore the hard conferencing the White House over the Benghazi assault, as Obama has resorted to being the killer in justice, and in the final weeks of the presidential campaign Republicans have hammered the administration over the possible intelligence failures that preceded the attacks—including a new account from that repeated requests for extra security in Benghazi had been rejected.

But any American military action on Libyan soil would risk resentments and almost certainly set off a popular backlash at a moment when gratitude for American support for the revolt against Col. Moammar Gadhafi has created a measure of appreciation for the United States in the region.

Bolstering a surge in underscores, the Libyan government has opposed any unilateral American military action in Libya against the attackers. "We will not accept anyone entering inside Libya," Mustafa Abu Shagur, Libya's new prime minister, told the Al Jazeera television network. "That would infringe on sovereignty and we will refuse."

In the same time, the Libyan government still depends almost entirely on autonomous local militias to act as the police, complicating any effort to detain the most obvious suspects. Libyan and American officials acknowledge the possibility that some of the perpetrators may have fled the country, perhaps across the porous southern border.

"It is a kind of bejeweled world," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East scholar at the London School of Economics and a member of the International Advisory Council from Benghazi. Despite promises of swift retribution, he said, the government has not taken any steps to confront or interrogate those most widely believed to bear responsibility.

Both American counterterrorism officials and Benghazi residents are increasingly focused on the local militant group Ansar al-Shariah as the main force behind the attack. Counterterrorism officials in Washington say they now believe that Ansar al-Shariah had a rough attack plan for the American diplomatic mission "on the shelf" and ready for some time just in case, as one official put it. Then, the officials said, reports of the breach of the US Embassy in Cairo, on the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks provided the impetus.

In the hours after the Benghazi attack, the American official said, spy agencies intercepted discussions between Ansar al-Shariah figures bragging in an operation with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, an Algerian insurgency that has made itself a nationwide of the global terrorist group founded by Bin Laden. Another intercept captured a Libyan militant bragging by militants on the grounds of the bombering American Mission in Benghazi that suggested links to, or sympathies for, the regional al-Qaida group.

In Benghazi, Ansar al-Shariah's role in the attack has been an open secret almost as large. The group's leaders had hoisted of their ability to frames the US Mission compound. New York Times News Service

Hondurans give free coffins to get votes

TEGUCIGALPA—In some countries, political campaigns give out bumper stickers and yard signs. In villages, they offer free lunches and supermarket debit cards. In Honduras, one of Latin America's poorest countries and also its most dangerous, candidates dangle an unusual type of political swag: coffins for the destitute.

Charities organized by politicians some poor neighborhoods in search of families of murder victims who cannot afford funeral services or even a simple casket to bury their beloved. There are plenty of takers in this Central American country, where two-out of three workers earn less than the minimum wage of $280 a month, and more than 150 people are killed every week.

The murder rate has more than doubled over the last six years that largely to an explosion in drug trafficking to the United States and a proliferation of violent gangs, many of which originated in US cities. The capital, Tegucigalpa, has grown so threatening that its streets empty after sunset, while its morgues fill up.

Without a coffin, mourners are prohibited from wheeling a body and instead bury the dead in mass graves. For the grieving family this puts in purchase a casket, that means not just the loss of their loved ones, but no way to honor them either.

That's where the charities come in—three, to be exact, which offer free coffins and embalming services to the poor and infrastructure for the bereaved. The charities are run by three elected officials, two of whom are seeking the presidency next year and a third who is running for mayor of Tegucigalpa. All are members of the Honduran Parliament's ruling National Party.

One charity, Helping Hand Up, went to congressional funding thanks to the head of the Honduran Congress, Juan Orlando Hernandez, who is running for president. Like the others, Helping Hand Up insists it is not trading coffins for votes.

It is "just a desire to serve," said Congressman Renato Sagastume, who manages Helping Hand Up. The average price for a funeral in Honduras is $1,800, with coffins at about $125.

But Melisa Elvir of Democracy Without Borders, a Honduran transparency foundation, said there's a fine line between good works and vote-buying, and in the case of the coffins, the line is too thin. AP

40 killed in 3 Syria car blasts

BEIRUT—At least 40 people were killed and 90 wounded, most of them soldiers, when three car bombs struck the heart of Syria's second city Aleppo on Wednesday, a monitoring group said.

A number of women said that at least 40 people were killed and 90 injured," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "Most of them were regime troops."

Alexandretta, official television claimed 46 Baathists said 31 pro-regime were killed and dozens wounded.

"The toll could rise because many people were badly injured," a city official told AFP shortly after three bombs exploded around Saadallah al-Jabiri Square, near a military compound and a police station.

Two of the blasts hit the area near the club within a minute of each other.

A third car bomb then exploded some 150 meters away in the Bab Jnein district, at the entrance of the Old City neighborhood of Aleppo.

Near the other cars, part of the facade of a hotel was destroyed by the force of the blasts, an AFP correspondent at the scene said, adding that a three-story cafe collapsed completely.

The face of one of the injured people was covered in blood, the correspondent said. AFP

NYPD turns to Facebook to fight gang violence

NEW YORK—Police investigating two gangs called the Any Crime Computers and the Rockaway Alcohol crowd in search of their foes punching the pavement for leads. Instead, they fired up their computers and followed the trash talk on Facebook.

"Rockstar! up 3-0," one rapper boasted.—a reference to the body count from a bloody turf war between the Brooklyn gangs that ultimately resulted in 49 arrests last month.

Authorities in New York say a new generation of gang members is increasingly using social media to boast of their exploits and taunt their rivals—challenges that rarely stay virtual. And police and prosecutors have responded over the past years by closely monitoring Facebook and other sites for leads and evidence.

On Tuesday, New York Police Department Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced plans to beef up the NYPD's cyber crackdown by expanding the use of aggressive online investigative queries and doubling the size of the department's gang unit to 200 investigators.

The relationship will focus less on established gangs like the Bloods and Crips and more on loosely knit groups of teenagers who make use a certain block or section of a housing project as their turf and enjoy weapons on those who trespass or fail to show the proper respect.

"By capitalizing on the low-level bits-ups of these suspects to brag about their murderous exploits on Facebook, downtown and social media to throw a rival gang out of their criminal activity over the last three years," the commissioner said in remarks prepared for delivery at a law enforcement conference in San Diego.

Examples of the public displays of digital bravado allowed. AP

HK investigates ferry collision

HONG KONG—Hong Kong investigators on Wednesday examined the salvaged wreck of a boat that sank in a collision killing 39 people, as the city sought answers to its worst maritime accident in decades.

The Lantau IV was moored in a berth as rescued a gaping hole in its left rear from Monday evening's collision with the Sea Emperor ferry that flooded its stern within minutes trapping passengers in the cabin.

More than 120 passengers and crew were on the Hong Kong Electric company-owned to watch a huge National Day fireworks display in Victoria Harbor when the accident occurred late off Lamma, an island to the southwest of Hong Kong.

The stricken, 600-ton Sea Emperor ferry limped to Lamma where its shaken but relatively unharmed passengers disembarked before it sank on the much wider front a hole in its left hull, which was dented off in the impact.

Investigators posed over the pleasure boat Lantau IV as they tried to piece together how such an accident could have occurred in one of the world's busiest ports, which prides itself on its state-of-the-art transport infrastructure.

"I never thought such a tragedy would happen here and so many people would die," said survivor Ivan Lee, 47, a building contractor who was on the Lantau IV with his wife and two young children.

"In less than a minute, the boat started to list and the water was coming in ... As I put the life jacket over my son's head, we were already under water.

"I thought my whole family would die there," he told AFP.

Lee managed to escape out of a window with his son and daughter, his wife also survived.

Dramatic rescues of the dead were seen flying through the southern Chinese city's airspace in dramatic dark lived cases, while cried and soaked and ends other as they fought for survival.

Police arrested the captains of both vessels on Tuesday along with five crew. All of the detainees were released on bail, and none has spoken publicly about what happened.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying announced three days of public mourning starting Thursday when funeral services for the victims are expected to begin.

He also called for an independent inquiry as the accident raised questions about whether the regional leading hubs continue transport infrastructure had kept up with the huge growth in demand from mainland visitors.

Prakash Menapace, an assistant professor in Logistics and Maritime Studies at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, said the deadliest maritime accident in the territory since 1971 was probably a case of human error.

"They should be able to not navigate even in poor visibility with the radar. It's surprising that they didn't see each other ... they should have seen each other," he told AFP. "How likely they misunderstood each other's intentions." AFP

FIRE Services Department personnel (lower deck) check damage as police inspectors (upper deck) collect evidence on the damaged boat. AFP/AFP

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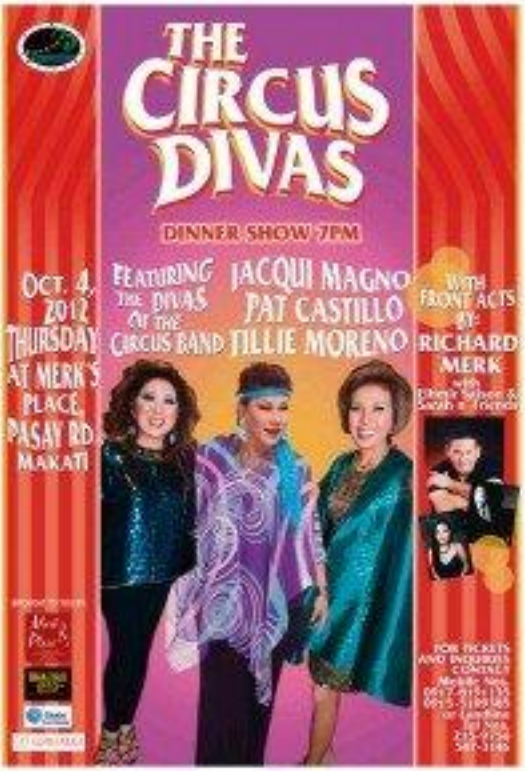

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INQUIRER

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- BSP defends dollar accumulation /B3

Editor Raul G. Manuela • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Why buy used equipment when you can buy brand new?

ADB allots $1.8B for PH development

3-year loan program to boost anti-poverty drive

By Michelle V. Rerra

THE ASIAN Development Bank has reiterated its commitment to help the Philippines achieve its development goals, saying it will earmark between $1.7 billion and $1.8 billion for its loan program for the country for the succeeding three years.

Ifzura Aziz, country director of ADB for the Philippines, yesterday said a significant portion of the money to be disbursed in the Philippines from 2013 to 2015 will be used to provide funding support for conditional cash transfers (CCT), education, community development projects, and other initiatives for poverty reduction.

"We are a government partner, and we are supporting development initiatives of the country," Aziz told reporters yesterday.

Aziz said ADB fully supports the Philippine government's CCT program, under which the government provides food subsidies to selected poor households. Recipient households are required to send children to public schools. The objective of the program is to improve education among the poor and eventually anti-poverty incidence.

The ADB official said the CCT program of the Philippines has become a model for poverty reduction activities of other countries.

He said this program is believed to help address the serious poverty problem in the Philippines.

Although the Philippines is growing at a respectable pace, Aziz said economic growth so far has failed to redound to poverty reduction. This means benefits of the growing economy are being enjoyed mostly by the middle class and the rich.

Latest official data on poverty showed that poor Filipinos accounted for 26.5 percent of the population in 2009, up from 24.9 percent in 2003.

The ADB believes maintenance

ADB B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 3, 24-2
41.595

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 3, 24-2
▲ 26.84

PSE ends at record high

THE MAKITI local stock index surged to a new all-time high close of 5,319.32 on Wednesday on re- positions that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would cut interest

PAGE B2

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SM Investments to offer 7-, 10-year dollar bonds

Tanco group set to open 10 more campuses in 3 yrs

THE STI Group of businessman Eusebio Tanco plans to open 10 more campuses to widen its educational network across the country in the next two to three years.

It intends to use the proceeds from an upcoming share sale to finance the expansion.

Three told reporters that seven of the 10 new sites would be in Luzon, specifically in Cabanatuan, Dagupan, Olongapo, Laoag, Calamba, Malolos, Lucena, and Quezon City.

The three remaining sites will be in the Visayas and Mindanao, specifically Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Two of the three campuses will be for the Philippine Women's University while the rest will be for STI.

Tanco said the institution's expansion would allow the group to serve about 100,000 students.

STI, which has been in the education business for 20 years, has 67,264 students for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The Tanco-led education group, through holding firm STI Holdings Inc., plans to raise as much as P4.5 billion from a follow-on shares offering. Its proposition is being a pure education play as it maintains and operates the Philippines' largest private for-profit network of educational institutions. Doris C. Bumlao

Citi, JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank named underwriters

By Doris C. Dumlao

TAGAYTAY Henry Sy-led SM Investments Corp. plans to return to the offshore bond market with the offering of seven- and 10-year US dollar bonds.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SMIC said it had appointed Citi, JP Morgan and Deutsche Bank to jointly underwrite the offering.

"The offering is a debt management exercise which aims to further lengthen the company's debt profile and take advantage of the much improved interest rate environment," the notice signed by its chief financial officer.

The company's board authorized the management to negotiate and finalize the amount, terms and pricing of the bond issue subject to the prevailing market conditions.

"The proceeds and interest of the US dollar bond (are) will to be disbursed/used debt issued by the management in discussion with the underwriter banks," SM chief finance officer Jose Sio said.

"The new issue is a straight bond issue," said SM investor relations chief Cora Goldeo.

The last time SM ventured in the overseas bond market was in February this year, but that involved a convertible bond issue. SM raised $250 million from the sale of offshore five-year bonds which investors can trade into equity. This was the first convertible bond (CB) offered out of the Philippines this year.

Before the convertible bond offering, SM did a $400 million notes and bond exchange in 2010 likewise to lengthen maturity. That issue was the first liability management transaction by a Philippine corporate issuer and, at the time of issue, received the lowest yield for a Philippine corporate issue of any maturity.

SMIC, through various subsidiaries, is the dominant player in Philippine banking, shopping mall and retailing businesses as well as a fast growing player in residential condominium and hotel/convention center development.

SEC OKs renaming of Lucio Tan firm

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the transformation of tycoon Lucio Tan's investment group into Tanchong Holdings Inc. into LT Group Inc., which will absorb the group's major assets.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday, Tanchong said the SEC had approved its petition to amend its bylaws and articles of incorporation.

But the PSE said the change in corporate name would not yet be reflected in its trading system, pending submission by the company of detailed procedures on the updating of its stock certificates.

The assets to be folded into LT Group Inc. are the following: 99 percent stake in beer brewer San Miguel Brewery Inc.; 85 percent of cigarette manufacturer Fortune Tobacco Corp.; 98.1 percent of Tanchong Properties; 49.66 percent of flag carrier Philippine Airlines (post-recapitalization); 50.97 percent of budget carrier Air Philippines Corp.; 34.79 percent of Philippine National Bank and 22.62 percent of Allied Bank.

An earlier disclosure said the future conglomerate was expected to have P239.5 billion in total assets as part of its transformation from a beverage unit into the nation's umbrella holding firm.

After the consolidation, LT Group plans to sell up to 3 billion common shares to the overseas market via a top-up placement as part of plans to widen its public float.

The equity placement will initially be done with the sale by its controlling stockholder Tangent Holdings of up to 3 billion shares at a price to be determined at the end of a bank-building process.

Using proceeds from the sale of these secondary shares, Tangent will subscribe to the same number of new shares of LT Group at an amount not exceeding the number of secondary shares placed out and likewise at the same price per share.

This means that the transaction will eventually bring in new money for LT Group as Tangent will only be booking its shares for a quicker equity stake. The new shares to be issued by Tangent are intended to be listed on the PSE. Doris C. Bumlao

Robinsons to open mall in Isabela

DOMINION LED Robinsons Land Corp. is set to build its 16th mall in the country — a three-story SM-style mall in Santiago City, Isabela, which will open for business in September next year.

In a statement, RLC said the construction of Robinsons Place Isabela—which would have a gross leasable area of about 26,000 square meters—would solidify its mall network in northern Philippines. It will be among the five new malls to be opened by RLC in 2013.

The full-service mall will be built on a 4.2-hectare lot in Barangay Malitao and is strategically located along the Maharlika Highway. It will have a gross floor area of 39,725 square meters.

Santiago City is considered the center of commerce and trade in Isabela and home to thousands of businesses enterprises, as well as numerous banks, educational institutions and manufacturing companies, RLC said.

The city also hosts some of the biggest and highly equipped hospitals in the region. Agriculture is also noted as the main source of livelihood, with palay, corn, high value fruits and vegetables as the primary crops.

The city is the trading station for grains and other agricultural crops coming from Ilocos, Kalinga, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and other parts of Isabela.

RLC general manager for commercial centers division Arlene Magtibay said Robinsons Place Isabela would house a two-level Robinsons Department Store and a Robinsons Supermarket at the ground level as its anchor tenants. She said the upcoming mall would likewise feature Robinsons Appliance Center and HomeGyson as well as an Amusement Center and basic all-digital cinemas with a combined seating capacity of more than 1,000.

Robinsons Place Isabela also promises to host the most popular fashion and specialty shops, quick service restaurants, casual dining outlets, a food court and service shops.

"With accessibility as a primary design consideration, the development provides for a bicycle commuting purpose terminal and a bus lay-by," RLC said, adding this would also have parking slots that can accommodate 650 cars and 900 motorcycles. Doris C. Bumlao

DISCLOSURES

DMMMSU-Technologies Inc. could bought back 9,000 shares at P2.71 per share on Sept. 27, in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

PHOTOCA Online Systems Corp. reported it had bought back 10,000 shares at P13.84 per share on Sept. 28, in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

LIBERTY Telecoms Holdings Inc. announced the election of Andrew L. Huang as president and chief executive officer of the company.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty & Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, at 8:30 a.m. at the PSE Auditorium, PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 11 are entitled to vote at the said meeting.

Compiled by Mary Ann Ll. M. Ponce, Inquirer Research

PSEi ends at record high

From page B1

rates further.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 26.84 points or 0.5 percent to its closing level capped the previous record finish of 5,069.98 posted last July 5 but is still below the all-time intra-day high of 5,403.16 seen last July 6.

"It's still mostly liquidity," said Jose Mari Lerona, head of research at stock brokerage Campos Lanuza and Co., noting however that the rollover was much lower compared to when the stock market was posting all-time highs in July.

But light trading did not come as a surprise as the Ghosn and Brouth Korea markets were still on a holiday break.

Lerona said that if the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) refuses monetary easings to curb peso appreciation and another Basel, this would drive more money in the stock market. "Right now, it's a question of expectation, which is a more powerful factor than the actual change (in rates)," he said.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate is currently at a record low level of 3.75 percent.

Despite recent hints of an easing "dovish" or monetary easing cycle, the BSP may shift interest rates one more time to curb sharp peso appreciation and temper speculative capital flows, Citibank's chief Asia-Pacific economist Johnson Chua said on Tuesday.

Chua said the BSP may slash key interests by another 25 basis points or pursue other measures like a reduction in the reserve requirement for banks or the release of funds locked up to special deposit accounts.

The PSEi's upsurge was led by holding firms, which went up by 3.06 percent. The financial, industrial and property sectors also sent it higher gains.

On the other hand, the mining and oil counter fell by 1.29 percent while the services sub-index was also slightly in the red. Doris C. Bumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Benguet Corp. retools unit for mining logistics

By Rina T. Gloriondo

PUBLICLY listed Benguet Corp. is infusing as much as P219 million into its wholly owned subsidiary, Benguet Management Corp. (BMC), in line with efforts to turn the unit into a mining logistics and services provider.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the parent firm said its board had approved in principle the additional capital investment to support the proposed capital infusion of BMC and quasi-reorganization in the Benguet Corp. group.

Benguet Corp., the country's oldest miner, wants to turn BMC into the logistics and services provider for the group's mining subsidiaries.

In separate disclosure, Benguet Corp. CFO Bernardo Chaneliall said that BMC used to perform administrative tasks, but it will be reinvented into a key service provider for mining projects undertaken by the parent company.

The infusion—which between P200 million and P219 million—will help BMC buy a port in Candelaria, Zambales, and barges for transporting mineral products, Chaneliall said. BMC aims to make such purchases within 2012, he said.

Incidentally, Benguet Corp.'s Itaa Creek nickel project, which helped push the parent company's income up by almost a third in the second quarter, is located in Candelaria province. Another growth driver for Benguet Corp. in the second quarter was the Acupan gold project in Benguet province.

Aside from maximizing BMC's investment by serving it into a mining logistics and services provider, Benguet Corp. is continuing work to update the resource estimate for its Itaa Creek nickel mine as now report is due months.

"The resource update may be available by mid- to end-January next year," Chaneliall said.

BSP defends dollar accumulation

High international reserves shield PH against external shocks

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday defended itself against criticism that the country's rising foreign exchange reserves have led to excessive and unproductive levels, saying the accumulation of dollars has actually aided the economy in withstanding external shocks.

The BSP said the buying of dollars, which leads to the building of the reserves, is needed from time to time to keep the country from the destabilizing effects of surges in foreign portfolio investments and other unfavorable developments in the global economy.

Significant inflows of foreign capital may cause sharp and sudden appreciation of the peso, which can be disruptive to businesses and the economy, according to participants in the meeting, the BSP said.

"In the wake of heavy capital inflows, the BSP has accumulated additional reserves, recognizing that financial volatility can be extremely disruptive and that a high level of reserves can be a good cushion," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told the lawmakers.

The rise in foreign portfolio investments is exemplify markets like the Philippines is attributed to the economic problems of the US and euro zone countries.

The BSP also said significant dollar reserves give it flexibility to buy (coins and generate a strong base for growth of the money supply in times of capital flight. Withdrawal of foreign investments is a probability especially in times of a volatile global economy.

Guinigundo said the significant amount of foreign exchange reserves help cushion vulnerability the country's vulnerability to external shocks. Commercially, he said, the country is able to gradually gain the confidence of new investors.

"Without this [high level of reserves], we might lose of external competitiveness and undermine the real sector," he said.

The country's foreign exchange reserves currently stand at about $82 billion, a historic high. The amount is enough to cover for almost one year of import requirements and is six times more than the country's debt to foreign creditors.

Guinigundo's comments were made when he was asked to respond to the opinion of some economists that the foreign exchange reserves of the Philippines are already excessive and that accumulation of dollars over the last few years have been a costly experience for the BSP.

Johanna Chua, chief economist for Asia-Pacific at Citi, said in a press briefing the other day that the foreign exchange reserves of the Philippines is the second highest in the region in terms of proportion to certain foreign liabilities of the country.

She said the BSP can afford to go slow on dollar accumulation, saying the country already has more than enough foreign exchange liable.

Chua said dollar accumulation is costly because this entails inflation of additional peso liquidity into the economy. Proceeds of the additional liquidity are placed by banks as deposits to the BSP which pays interests on the deposits.

Metrobank unit expanding 164-MW Iloilo power plant

By Amy B. Barros

METROBANK affiliate Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC) is pushing through with the expansion of its 164-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Iloilo City.

The project will raise the plant's capacity by 82 MW. It is aimed at meeting the anticipated growth in electricity demand in the region not only to serve the anticipated growth in electricity demand in the region but to also help lower power rates over the long run.

"Currently, Iloilo City and the island of Panay are experiencing accelerated business growth particularly in the areas of real estate development, business process outsourcing and tourism industries. Based on our projections, we are expanding our power capacity to address the possible shortfall of supply in the Visayas grid by 2015," said Anne Aurelia, GBPC SVP for business development and commercial operations.

In a statement, GBPC said the company through its subsidiary Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC), has decided to exercise its option to proceed with the construction of a third 82-MW unit within the existing facility, which consists of two 82-MW units.

This option is part of the contract it signed in March this year with Formosa Heavy Industries Corp. for the supply of auxiliary power, which involved the construction of a new 82-MW coal facility in Toledo City, Cebu to support the mining expansion plans of mining firm Carmen Copper Corp.

According to GBPC, the expansion of the coal plant of Iloilo City is expected to be completed by late 2014. Once all projects are completed, PEDC's total generation capacity will reach 328 MW—of which 246 MW will come from the Iloilo coal plant and 82 MW from the Cebu coal facility.

"We are planning to start operations of the third unit in late 2014 as part of GBPC's commitment to provide adequate, reliable and cost efficient power supply we are expanding our existing facilities in Iloilo," Arnaiz said.

ADB allots

From page B1

of the GET program will help the country achieve its growth and poverty reduction goals.

Abad also said the government must invest more in public infrastructure, and more private investment is needed in the area.

ADB is likewise supporting infrastructure development initiatives of the Philippines, he said.

"The Philippines is significantly behind the curve in terms of its infrastructure investments as compared to the rest of Asia. We noted that infrastructure spending in the Philippines is just below 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"Other countries in Asia are investing more in the area at 7 to 9 percent of GDP so that the Philippines can better compete with its neighbors in attracting foreign direct investments," Abad said.

ADB is one of the Philippines' biggest sources of development loans.

Pictured during the contract-signing that kicked off the Brittany-styled project in San Fernando, Pampanga were (Top, from left) WorldGreen Park project head Rafael Medina; WorldGreen Park sales director Marissa Marquez; WorldGreen Park sales manager Marianne Tengco, and Lorenzo Pacific Corporation (LPC) VP for Luxury Home Communities Ernest Marcelo Bautista. (From left) Central Pampanga Electric Cooperative (CENPELCO) VP for Pampanga Jose Lazatin, LPC Philippines and CEO Alfred Ker te Bongan III, City of San Fernando mayor Hon. Oscar Rodriguez, and San Fernando City Administrator Ferdinand Caplan.

PPP aims to stop flooding

With unusually heavy monsoon downpour flooding many parts of the country during the rainy season, Lorenzo Pacific Corporation inked a pact with Centro Ancestral Properties, Inc. (CAPI) that targets to stop the perennial problem caused by the overspill of excess rainwater in the rainiest quarter of the year. Lorenzo inked a partnership deal with CAPI and the City of San Fernando, Pampanga to improve the drainage system in Barangay del Carmen, San Fernando City.

Signing the Memorandum of Agreement to seal the public-private partnership were Lorenzo Pacific Corporation's Ortigas Philippines and CEO, Alfred Ker te Bongan III and Gerard C. Mamaril, Vice President & SBU Head for Luxury Home Communities; Jose Lazatin, CAPI's VP for Pampanga, and Mayor Oscar Rodriguez. City Administrator Engineer Ferdinand Caplan and Barangay Captain Orlando Pangilinan.

This new drainage system, envisioned to prevent flooding in Barangay del Carmen, was completed even as the rainy season. Lorenzo Pacific Corporation is the developer of high-end leisure communities, resort-inspired condominiums and luxury home communities. WorldGreen Park, their newest luxury residential development in San Fernando, Pampanga is a joint venture with the Lazatin family's Central Shepherd Properties Inc.

Professional Regulatory Commission Chairperson Teresita Manalo Diaz (seventh) and the Treasurer of the Philippines Roberto D. Tan recently signed the renewal action of agreement between SM and PRC with SM Vice Presidents Jorge T. Mendiola, and SM SVP for Communications Nancy A. Lao.

SM and PRC TIE UP

Working professionals can now renew their PRC License while they shop in the mood to buy between the Professional Regulatory Commission with the Bureau of Treasury and the SM Department Store.

The tie-up was recently formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Professional Regulatory Commission Chairperson Teresita D. Manalo and Treasurer of the Philippines Roberto D. Tan with SM Vice President Jorge T. Mendiola and Senior SVP for Communications Nancy Lao at the Mall of Asia Arena Shopping Audition Center.

With this, one can now file and renew their PRC License ID at SM Business Centers, which now accept payments for PRC License. Samuel Dinwer Pama who pursued the PRC's renewal examinations.

"Busy workers working professionals form no different taxes - accountancy, architecture, engineering, chemistry, Medicine, Engineering (Mechanical, Marine, Metallurgical, Civil and Chemical), Midwifery, Geology, Nutrition-Dietitian, Social Work, Criminology, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Midwifery, Psychology, Medical Technology, Nursing, Optometry, Environmental Planning and Librarian. Professional teachers, librarians, agriculturists, foresters, marine deck and marine engineers who can also renew their PRC License ID annually at SM Business Centers.

All they have to do is to simply accomplish the PRC License Form with their license number, birthdate and profession at the counter, paying for the renewal fee. They can pick up their new renewed PRC License ID after seven working days at the SM Business Center or they may ready renewed License ID delivered to their home through SM's courier services.

Over the past few years, the SM Business Center has become more widely known as government services offered by agencies like the MCC, SSS, Philhealth, DFA and Pag-ibig. The addition of the Professional Regulatory Commission's services is another step in bringing these services closer to SM shoppers. SM Business Centers are located at most SM supermalls.

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Construction innovation makes SM Masinag flood-free

THE AREA of Masinag along Marcos Highway in Antipolo has always been known to be flood-prone even way before the days of Ondoy. SM Prime Holdings, however, saw opportunity instead of liability in this forgotten side of the north by building its 4.3-ha mall - SM Masinag - as the first shopping complex in the country that employs an innovative construction design capable of withstanding flood-waters.

SM Masinag's water storage system design includes a holding tank that collects rainwater coming from the mall's roof gutter, driveway and roadway drainage systems. The structure also connects the drainage systems of nearby subdivisions along Marcos Highway to direct floodwaters away from their communities and into the mall's underground tank. The tank can accommodate up to 15,000 cubic meters of rainwater.

The groundbreaking construction plan was made possible through SM Prime Holdings's SM Green Environment program led by its chairman, Gaw Hiolek. Hiolek explained that the mall's proximity to the highly flood-prone part of Antipolo is the main reason for incorporating a 5,000,000-gallon holding tank in the design in order to absorb the damaging impact of heavy rains.

"This revolutionary water storage system reflects the company's overall green commitments as part of our commitment to the welfare of the community we serve, its people, and the environment," added Hiolek.

From the holding tank, stored rainwater goes through sewage treatment for re-using in cooling towers, comfort room flushing, irrigation and grounds maintenance. Environmentalist, farmers, and former member of the inter-agency commission on Climate Change Secretariat, Eric Tan, affirms that the water storage facility can be considered as a water conservation structure.

"Not only does this reduce the water bills of the building, it also reduces the use of electric consumption since additional electricity needed to produce the required pressure is avoided. Reduced electricity consumption also means reduced carbon emissions," Tan explained.

Since the water storage facility started operating over a year ago, SM Masinag has been able to reduce its potable water consumption by an average 13.44% percent. "The success of this design is now paving the way for a replication in SM Baguio, which will soon go through a redevelopment to include an underground water reservoir. This will have a water capacity of 6.9 million liters, which is equivalent to the absorption capacity of about 4,000 pine trees.

Vienna Orchestra in 15th Toyota Classics

TOYOTA brings back an exclusive cultural experience to classical music enthusiasts in this special overnight performance on Nov. 13 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo inside Resorts' of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Featured in this year's Toyota Classics is one of the most respected ensembles in Europe, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra (VCO).

Toyota Classics concerts, now on its 15th year in the Philippines, have delighted music lovers in Asia for two decades.

Also known as the Wiener Kammerorchester, the VCO is Austria's leading chamber ensemble series. It is continuously appearing with the famed Schoenberg Choir, the Wiener Singakademie, the Vienna Chamber Choir and the Heidberg Ensemble.

The group's authentic Viennese sound, honed and aged since 1946 earned them invitations to appear all over the world hosting three-day festivals concerts.

The Vienna Chamber Orchestra averages around 130 concerts per year, with Mozart finally added to this year's itinerary.

Aside from pieces by Beethoven and Strauss, the VCO will also be rendering Rodgers and Hammerstein's Sound of Music with our very own Audie Centeno and Joanna Ampil.

Audie Centeno is a seasoned actor, recording artist, and producer among other things. He is among the founding members of Trumpets and Bagets.

Joanna Ampil, on the other hand, is a multi-awarded theatre actress with successful runs in famed productions such as the Musical of Miss, Miss Saigon, Aversos Q, West Side Story and Les Miserables.

Making them as the concert is Jojo Mettoni, a world-renowned conductor and joining them is Soichi Sheraji, considered as one of the most prominent classical guitarists today.

Doors will open at 7:30 in the evening. All proceeds from the Toyota Classics for sales will be donated to the Tapias City of Samar Rural Ground Buildings Village Project.

For ticket confirmation and payments, please contact Ticket World at telephone number 891-9999 or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

NOEL BAZAAR TREAT FOR METROBANK CARDHOLDERS

THE Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) will support the Noel Bazaar Series that includes the first leg at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Nov. 16-Dec. 2 and the second leg at the PICC Forum from Dec. 14-23. As part of the partnership, Metrobank Cardholders will be entitled to 'Instant Income in the Form of Loans', as well as other exclusive promos. Shown during the MOA signing between Noel Bazaar and Metrobank Card Corporation are (from left) Carl Interdad (Noel Bazaar Organizer's general manager), Pedro S. Gregorio, account manager Ayrile Bustos, president Mayon Gozon Kaufmann, MCC president Nilo A. S. Abela (above), board of rates, Alfonso A. Ocampo Chairman, VVP Alexander Aldaz Jr., SVP head of retail cards Elbert Bauzon and channel development manager, D. Patrick B. Ramirez.

BUSINESS IDEAS BUBBLE UP AT MERCATO

EVER a hundred existing and would-be entrepreneurs recently thronged to Mercato Centrale in Bonifacio Global City, hoping to hear a group of successful entrepreneurs share their experiences on how to start and sustain a commercial business. Organized by Entrepreneur Philippines Magazine, represented by editor-in-chief Louie del Castillo (2nd left), in partnership with PLDT Kaibanisa, the event featured entrepreneurs from left to right Noyen Soriano-Angeles Beef Tapa Lady; EJ Cuenco (Big Bolt's Charcoal Grilled Burgers); Juliet Herrera (Sarao Farm); and Sherrill Bantana (Yogurt Jug). Jorge Noel Wenceslao III (extreme), aka Mr. Kaibanisa, is shown here to talk about his newest partnership, Yakitori-O. He also shared PLDT Kaibanisa's programs on Connectivity, Financing, Education, Networking, and Extra Income-development to help entrepreneurs establish sustainable and progressive enterprises.

Healthy Carbs in a Bundle with Kraiseetan

ONE of the most versatile carbs we love is potato—flavorful and truly a classic. But what about adding Indonesia's signature tied rice that's to kissing with good season, meat, and spices to add a delicious and filling twist? Yes! Then you've got to try Kraiseetan's mini tubes. Another special unique take on potatoes, Kraiseetan Potato Crunch balls provide a healthy touch that will not only change the way we enjoy bread but the most versatile carbs that's already part of anyone's regular cravings. a brainchild of Maillot Beach who lived in the Netherlands after marrying her Dutch husband, her infatuation for cooking only deepened while it developed her desire in bringing to the country affordable yet tasty croquettes. After working with several chefs, not only they were able to create a tasty staple for the modern palate that we know. Kraiseetan is also now known as filling and delectable finger-friendly bites with the alluring charm of Hong Kong flavor. If you haven't tasted them in your first bite, you're missing out there! It's exciting nutrients from Vitamin B6, Vitamin C, potassium, manganese, and carotenoids, just promise the palatable which protects your body from free radicals.

Woobie finishes Run for Pasig

WOOBIE, the World Bazaar Festival's symbolic mascot crossed the finish line at the Run for Pasig 10K racing recently. Finishing for 1 hours, 7 minutes and 3 seconds, Woobie broke the record for the first mascot to finish the marathon for a cause this year. Since 2000, Worldbex Services International (WSI), the country's biggest trade show organizers, puts together the World Bazaar Festival in partnership with MS-DSC for the benefit of the ABS CBN Foundation Inc.(AFI). Together with Woobie and other Kapamilya stars, the 12th World Bazaar Festival will once again open its doors on Dec. 7-23 at the World Trade Center.

As the country's biggest trade show and expo organizer, WSI continues to create events that center on the concept of giving back to society. Through the 12th World Bazaar Festival's Woobie, the spirit of Christmas is always present as its resolute cast to love, kindness and service highlights the essence of charity wherever he may be.

The event promises to entertain more than 250,000 shoppers by giving them more than 700 booth stalls to shop from with endless activities on stage by different Kapamilya stars and its sponsors.

Shopping for a cause has never been more exciting with brands like Bustos, Havaianas, Adidas, Fila, CMG, Triumph, Goody, Swimsuits, Bafios, Pfw and Dryden and more joining the biggest and longest bazaar of the year.

From musicians to endless shopping fun, giving back this season is whatever form makes corporate social responsibility all the more rewarding.

East-West Seed promotes consumption of quality vegetables

NEWS data from the National Nutrition Council revealed that one Filipino out only 68 kilos of vegetables in a year, government officials and advocates quickly moved to make each place greener and healthy.

The efforts have also reached the legislature with the proposal of House Bill No. 6111 or Luntiang Lunas (Healthy Green Measure). The bill specifically targets the youth to make eating veggies a lifestyle.

Healthcare biologist and Dr. Conor Descaris is one of the main proponents of Luntiang Lunas.

Last October 1, Dr. Descaris, together with other advocates here and overseas, launched World Meatless Monday. Meatless Monday originated in the United States in 2003 with the hope of fighting obesity in the country.

But it is not just about consuming the recommended daily servings of vegetables. It is also about eating good quality vegetable varieties.

East-West Seed has been the pioneer in developing and producing a wide variety of vegetable seeds that are customized for the climate of the country they are planted. The company was founded in 1982 by a dutch-pioneering Dutch seed man Simon Groot.

"Good seeds can change the lives of farmers because they give them better harvests and improved income," said Mary Ann Hope, general manager of East West Seed Philippines. "For beyond improving farmers' lives, we also believe we improve consumer welfare because good seeds are the starting point of good quality vegetables for the Filipino household."

East-West seeds are known for higher yields, better tolerance to disease, longer shelf life, and extended growing seasons. The company has a breeding program which considers each country's local farming condition. To ensure that the seeds reach their full potential, East-West Seed assists farmers with its technology transfer program. Experts from the company go to different locations to teach farmers how to properly grow and care for the seeds.

To research and development division is tasked to come up with at least five new vegetable varieties in a year. The very first locally developed commercial hybrid seed in the Philippines and the whole of Southeast Asia is the Jade Star sitaphyas. At present, East-West Seed has 100 varieties of tropical vegetables with plentiful vegetable varieties among them.

The company owes its success to the strong trust given to it by farmers who are loyal to East-West Seed and plant its vegetable varieties every season.

On its 30th anniversary, East-West Seed is giving back by paying tribute to vegetable farmers. They have recently launched the Search for 30 Farmer Heroes and Regional Champs. The chosen vegetable farmers will receive a cash prize, seeds and plaques as recognition.

PHILHEALTH, PHARMA FIRMS SUPPORT STUDENTS PR CONGRESS

Dr. Eduardo P. Ranjo (center), PhilHealth president, is flanked by representatives of pharmaceutical companies and members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) as they pledge their support for the upcoming 20-12 National PR Students Conference and Grand Pro Competition in November. Student delegates from this year's conference are tasked with putting together a communications plan for PhilHealth in line with the government's advocacy on Universal Healthcare Coverage. In photo are (from left) Miles de Garcia, vice-chair, 20-12 Students Congress and Grand Pro Competition; Karen Villanueva, director for external affairs, Merck Sharp & Dohme; Patricia Pascual, director for public affairs and communication, Pfizer Inc.; Claire de Leon-Papa, chairman, 20-12 Students Congress and Grand Pro Competition; Daisy Dominico, vice president for external affairs, GlaxoSmithKline; and Cristina Gaanlo, corporate affairs and market access head, Novartis Healthcare Phils.

CHARITY FROM L.E.D. LIGHTS

MAKING the environment brighter and comfortable is an industry consensus of its social responsibility. World Wetlands Bridges (WWB), an international organization promoting light emitting diode (L.E.D.) product through Japan's new technology has joined efforts of their vast path for the benefit of children suffering from cancer and other terminal ailments supported by Jardyng Brahea of Pasay, Inc. (JAPI) formerly United Way Philippines, Inc. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) designating JAPI as one of the beneficiaries was signed recently in Manila Pavilion between WWB president Yoshiyuki Ikeda and JAPI president Dr. Lino S. Cano. The signing ceremony was also witnessed by WWB director for domestic affairs Tadahide Tsuno (left) and Cristoko Kitahara, WWB director for international operations (right).

GE Innovation Day: Global success with a local focus

FICTION: a Philippines where renewable energy powers even the most remote homes in the archipelago, where mass transportation offers safe, cheaper alternatives and greener solutions to the environment, and quality healthcare that is accessible to all. These are all possible, and they are seen first in innovation and synergy. It is where ideas, such as GE founder Thomas Edison's light bulb, are developed into breakthrough technology and constantly improved to fit the needs of the consumer.

This was a vision shared by GE executives and the business of different fields in the country during GE Innovation Day held recently at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati City. The event commenced with a forum led by keynote speaker John Rice, GE vice chairman and president and GE Co/Global Growth and Operations. Rice and the GE team met with GE customers representing major sectors in Philippine business and industry. The forum, with the theme "Making the World Work Better through Synergy and Innovation," presented an opportunity for sharing goals and best practices towards the country's growth and development. Photo shows GE business leaders with Mr. and Mrs. John G. Rice (3rd and 4th from left).

This current idea was underscored in the keynote address, as Rice talked about the history that the company shares with the Philippines. "We are proud of our history, and we also feel that we should be doing more; to create more capabilities in order to be a bigger and better part of this country," he said. Rice noted the current economic growth and the government's focus on transparency. The challenge he explained "is to find an optimal configuration from an organizational perspective for a global company, while acting as a Philippine company every day. It is about making our global strengths local."

Dollar strengthens after gloomy data from China

Grim trade deficit report from Australia aggravates pessimism

TOKYO—The dollar firmed while most Tokyo assets fell on Wednesday as data from China and Australia deepened gloom about the global economic outlook, further reducing risk appetite already hurt by uncertainty about the timing of Spain's request for a bailout.

US stock futures eased 0.2 percent, suggesting a weak start on Wall Street, while financial spreadbetters expect European bourses to open mixed.

Demand for the safe-haven dollar pushed the index measuring the dollar against a basket of six major currencies up 0.1 percent, and lifted the greenback to a 1-1/4-week high of 78.51 yen.

The euro eased 0.2 percent to $1.2986. It has come off a three-week low of $1.2893 touched on Monday but is drifting near Tom's 4-1/2 month high of $1.3079 seen in mid-September.

In Australia, the nation's trade deficit blew out to its widest in 2-1/2 years in August, weighing on the local currency and pairing gains for equities. Falling prices for iron ore and coal on weak demand from China have eroded export earnings.

China's official purchasing managers' index for the services sector fell to 53.7 in September from 56.0 in August as growth in the country's manufacturing industry stabilized at a slower pace, putting the world's second largest economy on course for a seventh straight quarter of slowdown.

"We have to get bullish vibes the numbers are so bad, especially in China and the euro zone," said Tony Nunan, an oil risk manager at Mitsubishi Corp., referring to weak manufacturing data released this week.

The Asian Development Bank also cut most of its 2012 and 2013 growth estimates for developing Asia on Wednesday, citing the impact of the slump in global demand on China and India.

The MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.2 percent while Japan's Nikkei average finished down 0.5 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, which resumed trading after a holiday weekend, climbed 0.2 percent. Markets in China and South Korea are closed for holidays on Wednesday.

Analysts say markets nevertheless have become more resilient since last month after the US Federal Reserve launched an aggressive stimulus package and the European Central Bank announced a program to buy bonds of euro zone states which ask for assistance.

"Euro shares drew steps are taken, but take modest, market sentiment improved and markets reactions to negative news became less acute than before," said Justin Tsuru, chief FX strategist at JPMorgan in Tokyo.

Tokyo shares also had a cheering as markets have not had a convincing encounter since mid- for months," he said.

Reuters

A GOGO gold trader shows a piece of gold after purchasing it from a gold miner at a mine site in Pulang in Indonesia, Central Sulawesi province. With the world's fifth-largest gold reserves, estimated at 3,000 tons, Indonesia is eager to ramp up exploration and production as it pursues its ambitious target of becoming a top 10 global economy by 2025. AUTA

United Airlines expands into Asia-Pacific

By Paolo E. Hernandez

CHICAGO, Illinois—United Airlines, the world's largest carrier, eyes the aggressive expansion of its network in the Asia-Pacific region as it reports mixed viewing demand for air travel in Europe due to the continent's economic woes.

Board of the airline's commitments to the region is the fielding of its newest aircraft, the Boeing 787 "Dreamliner", to several Asian routes, said Jeff Smisek, CEO of United Airlines' operational Continental Holdings.

"Asia remains a big area of focus for us. We have been flying to Asia for decades," said Smisek in a press conference at the airline's Chicago headquarters this week.

The Boeing 787, a 200-seat plane for long haul flights, gives United Airlines the capability to travel routes that are impossible on other narrow body aircraft.

The new plane also allows the carrier to operate long-haul flights that might not be large enough to warrant using bigger aircraft like the company's Boeing 777s or Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

United Airlines took delivery of its first of 50 Boeing 787s last Sept. 26, currently serving domestic routes in the United States. By the end of the year, the airline will have four more planes.

Starting the first quarter of 2013, United Airlines plans to start the 787 on flights between Los Angeles and Narita, Japan, and Shanghai, China; and flights between Denver and Narita.

By April next year, the company also plans to have non-stop flights between San Francisco and Taipei, Taiwan. The company also recently partnered with Japanese carrier All Nippon Airways for flights between Hong Kong and Tokyo Narita.

United Airlines currently flies nine a week from Manila to Guam, one of the company's 12 major hubs. All Nippon, for its part, has daily flights between Manila and Japan.

In October of 2010, United Airlines and rival Continental Airlines Inc. became wholly owned subsidiaries of United Continental Holdings Inc., creating the world's largest airline.

Despite the merger being completed two years ago, Smisek said the group was still incorporating the operations of both carriers that had extensive operations on their own.

A recent minister is a 4,000-million investment in their work-in-flight improvements. On international routes, passengers will benefit from the installation of the best seats in premium cabins on nearly 180 aircraft starting early 2013. The aircraft give United Airlines the most Au Bird routes among US carriers.

United Airlines, using 700 aircraft, has 5,616 flights a day to 377 airports on six continents. The company has hubs in Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Guam, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. in the US. The company also has a hub in Tokyo-Narita, Japan.

What makes a Board of Directors truly effective?

By Juan Carlos B. Roldan
Contributor

GOOD governance practices suggest that the Board of a company should be organized in such a way that the company can carry out the strategies set out by the Board in order to move the objectives without the Board getting too involved in the company's day-to-day activities.

To do this, the Board needs to establish clear structures set up appropriate to the company it serves.

For publicly listed companies at least, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Code of Corporate Governance requires that certain board committees be set up to enable the Board to effectively carry out its functions as an independent and working body.

These include an independent audit committee, a nomination committee, and a compensation committee.

The rule also laid down the main Board duties and responsibilities of these committees, which in turn, which include the CEO of a company.

Although the rule is not a one-size-fits-all approach, non-public companies can also benefit in terms of better corporate governance by adopting the principles of the SEC code.

Setting up a truly independent and working Board is fraught with many challenges.

For example, a small company may not need to set up separate committees. Perhaps having an executive committee will suffice in terms of monitoring its activities.

At the other end of the spectrum is a large company with many types of businesses or with several operating subsidiaries.

In this instance, it may be wise to set up committees or even subcommittees and assign at least one board member to take charge and have a handle on the company's operations.

Whatever the circumstance, however, the specific duties and responsibilities of board committee members should be clear to each of them.

To do this, it may be necessary to promulgate separate board committee charters that would lay down the roles of engagement and the reporting lines.

In our firm, for instance, we have set up an executive committee within our board of partners.

The executive committee is composed of the managing partner and the heads of the service divisions. In dividing risk management and technical support.

The executive committee's mandate combines the responsibilities of the audit, compensation and nominations committees of a public company.

It may be the ideal set-up at the moment considering the small size and operating structure of our firm.

Perhaps, to improve the governance structure, a separate audit committee could be set up in the future.

Another challenge that many Boards face today is the absence of truly independent Board directors.

Ideally, an independent Board director is one who is serious on what is beneficial to the company, and not on who appointed him or her to the Board.

However, in my opinion and based solely on my observations, some of the independent directors of today in certain public companies are appointed mainly because of their connections and business relationships with the controlling stockholders.

Hence, loyalty and the protection of the "principal's" interests become the guidepost for the Board director when making decisions, even if such interests run counter to the company's well being.

For example, large corporations controlled by certain individuals or families would have a tendency to put independent directors sitting in all of its boards and subsidiaries.

One would expect these independent directors to cater to the wishes of the controlling party that appointed them if there are contentious issues to be settled.

How can this challenge be addressed? Perhaps regulators can tighten up the rules.

It may be as simple as requiring independent directors to undergo extensive independence training on a regular basis or perhaps requiring a regulated pool of accredited independent directors who are compliant with mandated independence requirements.

Lastly, a truly effective Board needs to have a system or mechanism to measure its performance.

I observed that some boards already have measures in place to appraise their performance.

It could be as simple as self-assessments in the form of questionnaires, or interviews by key stakeholders.

For example, in a non-profit organization where I serve as board trustee, committee members are required to make a self-assessment and submit the ratings to the board committee chair in charge.

The critical issue here is if the results of the assessments are used subsequently as inputs to maximize board effectiveness.

This, I believe, is where the gap exists.

To close the gap, it may be necessary to come up with an equitable system of rewards and punishments (i.e., granting incentives or taking away benefits) as a response to a board director's performance.

The author is the head of Punong Aguinaldo Arnaldo's Advisory Services Division. P&A is one of the country's largest audit, tax and business advisory firms. Please send comments or questions to Juancho.Roldan@pa.gr.com.

COMMENTARY

China, Japan 'too important' for row, says IMF's Lagarde

TOKYO—The shaky global economy needs Japan and China to be fully engaged, the head of the IMF said, warning the world could not afford to have the two countries distracted by their bitter territorial dispute.

The warning came as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) slashed its growth estimates for the continent, saying the days of double-digit expansion were over.

Speaking to Japanese media ahead of the annual IMF meeting in Tokyo next week, Christine Lagarde said two of the world's biggest economies needed to show a lot of neighborly tolerance for the good of everybody.

"Both China and Japan are key economic drivers that do not want to be distracted by territorial disputes," Kyodo News agency quoted Lagarde as telling reporters in Washington, in an interview published Wednesday.

"The current status of the economy and the global economy needs both Japan and China fully engaged," she said.

Meanwhile, the ADB cautioned Wednesday that developing Asia was seeing a slowdown in its previously blistering growth.

The bank said China's gross domestic product (GDP) would expand just 7.7 percent this year, well below the 9.3 percent achieved last year.

Its previous April estimate is that the world no GDP growth on 8.1 percent.

"Developing Asia is showing down much more than we expected," ADB chief economist Changyong Rhee told reporters in Hong Kong.

"The years of two-digit growth in Asia are coming to an end," he said.

China and Japan, the world's second and third largest economies, have been at loggerheads for months over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

Tokyo administers the chain under the name Senkakus, but they are claimed by Beijing, which calls them the Diaoyus.

Chinese government ships regularly venture into waters around the islands, routinely ignoring orders to leave from Japanese coastguard vessels. Three vessels were in the area on Wednesday.

Increasingly nervous diplomatic exchanges, including as the United Nations in New York last week, and mass anti-Japanese protests in several Chinese cities have further exacerbated the already frictious relationship.

Japanese firms operating in China have moved to abandon or scale back their operations where mobs smashed factories and shops. Some companies also complained of tightened customs inspections and difficulties obtaining visas for their foreign staff.

Lagarde said neighboring countries must display "a certain degree of tolerance" if they were to rub along effectively.

The IMF managing director was speaking ahead of her trip to Japan next week when Tokyo hosts meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, at what will be the world's largest single gathering of finance officials, bankers and non-government organizations.

Now Jonas Staveniera is quoted late Tuesday several big Chinese banks had cancelled their participation in events connected to the meetings, in what it said was a sign of the row spreading into the broader economic realm.

Most of the banks have not given a reason for their withdrawals, perhaps for the unidentified person was explicit.

"Quite frankly it's Japan-China relations," Dow Jones quoted an official at the Tokyo branch of the Agricultural Bank of China as saying.

The bank will withdraw from both IMF-related events and another financial industry conference planned in the western Japanese city of Omiya in the end of October.

The global economy has struggled to shrug off the effects of the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, slowing growth in China and lingering concerns over the faltering US economic recovery.

Lagarde said European countries "have made huge progress" already on the road to recovery but "more needs to be done," according to Kyodo.

She cited the "fiscal cliff" in the United States...the automatic spending reductions and tax increases set to kick in early 2013...also poses a threat to the global recovery.

"What we want everyone is that the countries participating in the IMF annual meeting in Tokyo would be prepared to come together, act together and try to go beyond the crisis to remain the recovery," she was quoted as saying.

AFP

BUSINESS

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tausug of Tawi-Tawi
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YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

PH tax gains cited in forum

By Gaeddel M. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE gains on tax administration reforms and fiscal management will be part of discussions at the ninth yearly meeting of the Asia Pacific Tax Forum (APTF) that kicked off yesterday at the Makati Shangri-La.

"We are eager to learn from the Philippines' example and we are sure that all officials from business, the academe and government can use the forum as a learning event to improve tax policies," APTF co-founder Daniel Yih said at the start of the three-day event.

Yih also sits as president of the Washington DC-based think tank International Tax and Investment Center which, along with the Public Finance Institute of the Philippines, oversees the APTF secretariat.

Further, Yih cited the Philippines' recent credit rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's to a notch below investment grade "as a good sign" that fiscal management here is going in the right direction.

"The APTF Manila meeting will examine how to balance fiscal and non-fiscal objectives with tax policy" he said. "A country's most important trade policy is its tax policy."

The forum gathers 150 senior government officials, local experts and industry representatives from across the region to discuss the latest developments, studies, issues and challenges in taxation.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is in the middle of implementing a $963-million revenue administration reform project that is meant to help raise tax revenues and reduce tax evasion and corruption. The project covers the computerization of the revenue collection system as well as reforms within the BIR itself.

This project is part of a $434-million grant from United States-backed Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), which took effect last year.

Along with two other projects, the MCC package is meant to help reduce poverty in the Philippines.

The grant also provides funding for the $220-million Bgy. Brgy Labor in Batangas Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, which is meant to improve community-level infrastructure and social services for the poor, and strengthen the capacity of local government to address poverty.

A third component is the $214.44-million secondary national roads development project which is expected to reduce transportation costs and improve access to markets and social services. This will be done through the rehabilitation of an existing 320-kilometer road segment on Samar Island.

Use of rooftop solar panels in PH pushed

By Amy R. Remo

GERMANY and Philippine solar technology developers are pushing for a massive installation of solar panels on rooftops of households, commercial establishments and buildings as these could help ensure the country' energy security over the long term.

"As we enter 2013, we would like to focus on the solar rooftops because we believe that is going to be a big contributor by the [solar] industry in providing solutions to our problems in the energy sector," said Theresa Cruz Capellan, one of the founders of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance (PSPA).

"There are about half a million new residential projects that are going on around every year. If only 10 percent of these can be convinced to put solar panels on their rooftops, that will be a big help in both the distribution utilities and power generation companies," Capellan said. She added that it would also help reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The potential market for solar industry players was estimated at about P468 million to P936 billion yearly. This was based on the 36,000 households (representing 10 percent of the half a million constructions yearly) that can install solar panels with a capacity of 2 kilowatts.

To produce a kilowatt of solar power from these rooftop panels, one would need to invest about $4,500 for the actual components and installation works. This investment can be recovered in about seven years but the solar panels usually last for at least 25 years, said Capellan.

She said investors in solar energy were also in talks with real estate developers and the Climate Change Commission for the possible inclusion of rooftop solar panels in housing projects within "twin cities."

Thomas Ormonde Jr., head of international affairs of Germany's Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft e.V., said that the potential of photovoltaic systems globally continued to be underestimated in some parts of the world. In Germany, however, rooftop installations account for about 80 percent of the installed solar capacity of 26 gigawatts.

Ormonde he said rooftop solar panels could be a viable solution for the Philippines given its high solar irradiation level.

The Philippines is said to have solar irradiance of 1,500 kilowatts a square meter.

Electricity produced from solar energy, however, remains marginal compared to other renewable energy sources, such as hydro and geothermal, due to the perceived high costs of solar panels and installation.

LIFESTYLE Food

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Wild mushroom soup with foie gras, crème brûlée with foie gras ice cream—chef Remi's dynamite creations

MUSHROOM cream soup, foie gras ice cream, pumpernickle

Savor them at Mandarin Oriental Manila's Tivoli

CHEF REMI Vervelle of the Tivoli Rue joined the Mandarin Oriental chain at its hotel in Geneva, where he became chef de cuisine of Le Sud Paul Bocuse, a brasserie (that serves French food by Paul Bocuse) on the banks of the Rhone River.

Vervelle says his biggest influence remains Bocuse, to whom kindness he first worked as chef de partie and then as sous chef in Lyon, France.

The young man later ventured out of Europe and moved to Pasadena, California, where he worked as sous chef at Robiola in Cave; then in Manhattan, where he further honed his culinary ability at Bernin Bistro Manchurians in New York.

Since 2011, chef Remi has made The Tivoli his home. Vervelle has managed to keep his guests satisfied with his classical dishes ringed with modern chic.

Inspired by Bocuse and his bride, the newlywed chef's latest work, The Foie and Mushroom Menu, is sacred and sweet out of a fairytale.

Crowd favorite

Mushroom soup is all in season is undoubtedly a crowd favorite. Whether from store-bought cans or the freezer types whipped à la minute, a bowl of hearty mushroom soup can bring you back in your childhood.

Remi's take on it is best described as heaven in a cup—made from a mélange of the tastiest fresh wild mushrooms imported from Europe. Their distinct flavors are further enhanced by generous splashes of quality cream and butter.

The soup is beautifully topped with shavings of fresh foie gras and served with a baguette. The marriage of the two is a dynamic combination, the resulting soup seasoned to perfection—light yet rich, with sensational spurts of hot bouts and cold bits.

Other buzz-worthy menu offerings include a warm, savory crème brûlée overloaded with an assortment of fresh mushrooms and topped with a scoop of foie gras ice cream (something to die for—awfully smooth, rich, tasty and delicious), an opulent puff pastry bulkhaus for you to boast, with a fascinating blend of yeasties, edible grass such as asparagus, duck liver "à la foie gras poêlé," and

VOLO C2

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LUPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARGO

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOOTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

BIKO MACHINE BY PAWIK ABRERA

SEIH BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CRINIT

THIS WEEK TODAY You have what it takes to make your future what it hopes on the scale of the public. This is why you know how to set your goals and how to achieve them. You have drive and you like things to go smoothly around you, and you also understand to accept and adjust, hardly to implement to you. You can use software in creating your own. Open the door!

Birthdays of: Stephen Sutherland, the director, Anne Rice, novelist, Charlton Heston, actor/politician (d. 2008).

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You have a strong sense of intuition and attention today. You're eager to meet new people, new ideas, places and new fresh ideas. Look — a bright new object!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Overcome overcrowding by getting out of the house. Visit charming original and unique places. Seniors have more success with older apartments or condos, which you might also spend time in. Be careful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The Moon's conjunct your sign today, dancing with people other planets. This makes you feel alive, elated and excited about life. You're eager to encounter fresh challenges.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A restless, overly pensive mood in your day, especially toward the evening. However, this also makes you feel up for new adventure and reach for something new.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You might meet someone who is new and unusual today. Or perhaps someone you already know has an unusual idea for you. Be careful you haven't gotten into a business or relationship. Enjoy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) People in authority might be difficult to you today. If you want to stay on their good books, you might want to hold back before you say or do anything. Somebody else might possibly ask if you are in a relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Working to accomplish others now? Such many opportunities to learn something new or to help others in an atmosphere of harmony and balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Surprise gifts and goodies might come to you today. Keep smiling, and keep your work on your "toes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A problem or misunderstanding might develop in the area of communication today. Watch what you say and how you say it to avoid misunderstandings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The introduction of new technology or high-tech equipment at work or from home. However, computer crashes, canceled meetings and other shortages also might occur. Allow ample room for errors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You feel highly creative today. It's a good day for the arts, playing with children and pets. Feel free to do something special for someone you love. Be careful you don't overdo exercise and sports.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your mood is changeable today. Be careful you don't overreact to something that is not worth getting upset about. Be careful you don't overindulge in food, drink or drugs.

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dan Feyer

	9	1	2	7		4	8	
	6						7	
			6		3			8
5								9
7			1		4			
	2						6	
	6	3		6	5	9	1	

Difficulty level: ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

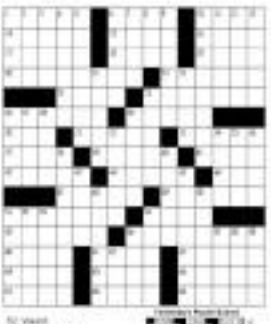
ACROSS

1. Actress Gilda
6. Fete
10. Card player's word
14. Hot rooms
15. Fidget
16. Mrs. Lee
17. Lincoln's aunt
18. Dust of oak
19. Country neighbor
20. Orderly
22. Ingredient for soup
23. Ready for payment
24. Lose heart
26. Cheese on Dover sole
28. Gilbert or Sullivan
29. Lubricating drug
31. College in lower Iowa
32. Trousdale's
33. Accompaniment
37. Pitcher
38. Verbose
39. Ice pioneer
40. Prefix for pedestrian
41. Prefix for sequence
42. Avoid
43. Jeans
45. Jacket
46. Knife
47. Ill-natured
48. Decorative article
49. Move a component
50. Tier
51. Jacket
52. Orders
53. Hotel (deliciously)
54. Ate at a leisurely pace
55. Hotel (charmingly)
60. Flaw
61. Ally: Brit.

62. Final out when not
63. Pay attention to
64. Inside: Inside Sports
65. Superior

DOWN

1. Priority
2. Jacket accessories
3. Jacket
4. Pullover
5. Pullover, initially
6. Chemical suffix
7. Gloria Vanderbilt
8. Gloria Vanderbilt
9. Superintendent
10. Lobby
11. Expressions
12. Editor's substitutes
13. Handle loosely
14. Jacket
15. Dress for town
16. Like many adventure
17. Hole opening
18. Bundles
19. Jacket
20. Jeans
21. Part of a grapefruit
22. Gatherings
23. Sportswear
24. Jacket
25. Song for "Annie Get Your Gun"
26. Jacket
27. Bit
28. Dyed
29. Undercoverwear
30. Recital need
31. Wears garments
32. Jacket
33. Remember
34. Otherwise (colloq.)



Wild mushroom soup with foie gras . . .

From page C1

wild mushrooms and shaved truffles inside, bathed in a light broth, and the chef's favorite, one that he says took him three days to make—a plate of foie gras, smoked sturgeon duck, wild mushroom salad with duxelle mustard.

Have a bite of chef Bond's edible masterpieces with the Tivoli's Mushroom and Truffle Symposium (only till Saturday). Call the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for reservations.

As a special holiday treat, chef Bond shares his Wild mushroom soup and shaved foie gras recipe. You may not find all these mushrooms, but try to experiment with a mix of those you can find locally.

Wild Mushroom Soup with Shaved Foie Gras

Wild mushrooms, 300 g cups, 200 g pied de mouton

300 g white mushrooms, 20 g dried morel mushrooms

- 50 g butter
- 3 tbsp shallots, diced
- 30 g garlic, chopped
- 150 ml dry white wine
- 300 ml chicken stock or vegetable stock
- 200 ml liquid cream
- 1 bay leaf
- 150 g raw foie gras, brined kept in freezer
- 4 slices of baguette bread
- Pea sprouts or herbs for garnishing

Wash carefully all the mushrooms and soak the morels in water for 10 minutes.

Slice the white mushrooms and cut the caps and pied de mouton into medium-sized chunks.

Drain the morels but don't keep the jus.

Sauté all the mushrooms in butter. Add the shallots and garlic. After 3 minutes, deglaze with white wine. Add the bay leaf and reduce until almost dry.

Add half of the chicken stock and the cream and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce for 5 minutes then remove the mixture from the heat and set aside for 10 minutes to let the liquid infuse with the mushrooms.

Puree the preparation in a blender. If it's too thick, add some more chicken stock.

Meanwhile, toast the baguette.

Just before serving, remove the foie gras from the freezer and use a peeler to shave the foie gras.

Plating: Heat the hot soup into a soup plate. Place the shaved foie gras on the baguette slices and place the bread alongside the soup. Decorate the baguette with herbs.

Serve it now.

Red Garlic promo

Congratulations to Red Garlic!

The restaurant (that serves my favorite spicy seafood pasta in Pasay city), Chef Vince Rodriguez has asked me to thank readers on his behalf for supporting Red Garlic, and to inform the public that the score is giving 20 percent off on diners' total bill until Oct. 6. And on Oct. 7, it will have a one-day only lunch and dinner buffet for only P299 net!

The buffet will feature signature dishes such as the angus tomahawk steak, ribs, salmon duo, slow plate, fusilista and Parmesan pasta, just around pizza and more.

Unfortunately, no reservations are allowed, the buffet is strictly on a first come, first served basis. Lunch buffet is at 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and dinner at 5-11 p.m.

(Red Garlic is at 218 Rhodrigo A. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.)

For scoops of my new holiday cooking class schedules, call (0917-3043700, (0908-1572345, 4888698, 8385098.

Salmon tartare, duck with orange sauce, osso buco—yet another resto discovery in BF Parañaque

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SOMETIME IN the '90s, I was invited to be one of the judges of a cooking competition called the Iberian Great Chefs of Asia. I don't remember the exact details, except that we were served the best cheeses prepared by a handful of chefs around Manila.

We judges had a dinner once a week at each of the chefs' restaurants. After the entrée preserve, we scored each dinner and came out with a winner.

Two of those chefs that are unanimously put on top of our list are very successful restaurateurs up to this day. Chef Joy Gonzales, together with his sister Mida, runs Gitkalo in Makati, where you will find a cozy and food facility that will make you faint with pleasure. This is crunchy, sticky ang, super-tender, along with tasty beef belly. Extremely unhealthy but, hey, dense are the dishes are live for.

The other chef, chef Manny Gimenez, is behind the now restaurant Tito Chef.

Reasonably priced

Monday is my day off Sabbath at our restaurant, Wooden Spoon. One Monday, I was about to treat myself to a late lunch at Hanabaro, an authentic Japanese restaurant along Aguirre Avenue in BF Parañaque, when I drove by this restaurant called Tito Chef. I made a mental note to leave the dinosaur and come back for this one.

Then I got a call from my friend telling me that Hanabaro was also closed on Mondays. I knew exactly where to go instead. In fact...I was kind of happy we didn't have to choose where to eat.

Tito Chef is on your right along President Aquino as you enter the subdivision of Chef Manny in the site housing and manning the kitchen, and the entire menu is his creation.

By this time a chef's store, with plans to eventually open his own culinary school. Having been a chef instructor at Center for Culinary Arts for many years now, he says he simply wants to share his culinary talent.

Well, as I always say, the best way to determine where to enroll for cooking school is to dine at the school's outlet. If the food impresses you, enroll there, be smart that cooks in the school's showcase.

I was very impressed at the way Tito Chef plates wise food and decorated. It looked pretty at first glance, but I was terribly mistaken. The prices are very reasonable, and the menu has many interesting items to try.

A friend swears by the Truffled Mushroom Soup Puree, a slightly thick and creamy soup with a woodsy aroma. With some bread on the side, it was a good starter.

I ordered the Salmon Tartare, which I loved. With some melba toast, this chilled and chopped sashimi will awaken your palate.

Main dish

For main dish, I had the Duck Confit d'Orange, or duck with orange sauce, served with some mashed potatoes. A friend had the scaloppine and the Osso Buco. Both good!

Ditto with the reasonably priced and succulent-cooked burger. I also went to town with the Cordon Bleu sandwich and the Camidoni Bechamel. My head leapt following all the dishes that came out of the kitchen.

The presentation was impeccable and the serving portions were quite generous.

Just three days after, we were back driving from Kintpoman to BF Parañaque to hit Tito Chef's with one more appetizer at Hanabaro and burger at Tito Chef.

At Hanabaro, I have always craved for the Kimpira Gobo, which is shredded dessicated root with some sauce, and the soft cured tofu Mazegohan Chef's topped with fish flakes and Dashimaki salad with ebi, fried syrup. (Hanabaro is at 308 Aguirre Ave., Parañaque; call 8505512, 2115734.)

From there, we drove to Tito Chef, where I had my burger (Tito Chef is at 2 Adelfa St., corner Pyrolusite Ave., Ayala Village, Ilaya, Parañaque; tel. 2806868).

I also enjoyed the Fruit Mélange, Candies and Walnut Salad. These are fruits mixed with greens and tossed in a fruity balsamic dressing and topped with candied walnuts.

Next time, I will have to check out the cedar grilled salmon, which looks great in the photos. Others I am eyeing are the rosemary grilled lamb steak and the BBQ, which is grilled 12 oh eye with pepper sauce.

Chef Manny is still on soft opening mode, but I never really noticed. Service is that good.

It's nice to see these two young chefs doing what they love best and succeeding in it. Really, it is never work when you enjoy what you're doing.

Happy eating!

Mooncakes

I love mooncakes. I'm of late version I have some active so far. I love the ones made by Hongkey Hoock in Manila...lotus paste with two egg yolks, and lotus paste with two egg yolks (tel. 4477862 loc. 104 or 302).

The presentation was impeccable and the serving portions were quite generous

Salt and honey chicken

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

ONE of the latest rave trends in the culinary world is the blending of salty and sweet flavors. Bonus: salted caramels have become very popular whether as toffee, ice cream or even as a drink.

While this may be new to some countries, here in the Philippines, we've had this flavor combination for years, though perhaps we may not think of it in terms of being trendy. There's *champoy*, for instance, which is mouth-puckeringly salty at first bite then regularly sweet the next. Then there's *tti cotoin*, the dessert, which restores the mouth on the buzz back to flavor-neutral after lurking gradually morphing into coldness.

And what about the sweet-but-by-salted *inasal*—a combination of soy sauce and sugar-spiced blissfully over fresh lemon-grass grilled?

Here's an enticing recipe that makes the most of this salty-sweet combination: herb-roasted chicken brushed generously with coarse salt and honey. The salt keeps the chicken from being cloyingly sweet, while the honey balances the slightly salty flavor. The lemon, slices in part by adding just a hint of citrusy taste.

D.I.Y.

Nestlé Chikbites

Making the chicken more appetizing is the mildly sweet gravy made from patiently stirred chicken drippings and a light broth simmered from simmered giblets.

Serve this with rice, green peas and/or steamed baby carrots and you'll have a delightful meal.

Salt and Honey Chicken

1 whole chicken, about 1.2 k
2 ½ tbsp coarse salt
¼ c honey
3 leaves
1 tbsp olive oil
1 chicken head
1 chicken liver
1 chicken neck
2 ½ c water
Pan drippings from the cooked chicken
¼ c flour
Salt for seasoning (optional)
Wash and rinse the chicken well, then pat with paper towels. Combine the salt and honey in a bowl. Rub chicken inside first. Brush the chicken all over with half of the salt and honey mixture (reserve the other half of the mixture). Let the chicken stand, covered, for at least 30 minutes (refrigerate if longer).

When ready to cook, squeeze lemon over the chicken, then stuff the lemon inside the chicken. Truss the chicken by tying the chicken legs and the tail end together. Brush the chicken all over with the reserved honey mixture. Arrange the chicken in a roasting pan. Roast chicken in a hello broiler at 375°F (190°C) for 40 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F (180°C) and roast the chicken for another 20 minutes or until chicken is fully cooked.

Transfer the chicken to a serving platter and reserve the chicken drippings (to be used for making the gravy—see below). Cover the chicken to keep it warm while you make the gravy.

To make the gravy:

Strain the chicken drippings to remove any bits and put them in a large saucepan together with the 2 ½ cups water. Simmer for 20-30 minutes (you can do this while the chicken is cooking in the hello broiler). Strain the resulting broth into a bowl and set aside.

When the chicken is cooked, drain the drippings into a measuring cup. Add enough water to measure one cup and pour in ¼ cup of the drippings. Heat over low heat, stirring constantly, until flour and drippings form a smooth mass. Slowly pour in the remaining drippings while stirring constantly. Stir mixture constantly over low heat to remove any lumps and ensure smooth. Add the prepared broth in small increments, stirring well after each addition. Increase heat to medium and simmer until liquid thickens. Season with salt if desired. Serve hot with the roasted chicken.

For more tips, recipes and stories, visit the author's blog www.nestlechikbites.com and facebook fan page www.facebook.com/nestlechikbites. Follow on Twitter @NestleChikbites

Cook's tips

- Buy whole chicken that comes with the liver, gizzard and neck or you'll have ingredients for the gravy. Otherwise, just buy the liver, giblets and neck separately.
- Preferably buy chicken that's fresh, not frozen. If frozen chicken is your only choice, check that it doesn't have freezer burn and thaw the chicken in the refrigerator for three to four days before using.
- Use kitchen twine for tussing the chicken. Tussing the chicken preserves the shape of the chicken and helps to cook it evenly.
- You can also roast the chicken in a convection-type oven. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C) and roast the chicken for 40-50 minutes, then lower heat to 350°F (180°C) and roast the chicken for another 20-25 minutes or until chicken is fully cooked and tender. If the chicken browns too quickly, cover it with a 'tent' of aluminum foil.

Singaporean bisque, foie gras 'taho,' 'tres leches' with coconut and 'sampaguita'—food inspired by Rizal

THERE SEEMS to be a growing curiosity about what our national heroes ate. Many of the local TV shows have been asking me that question, requested me for an interview on the subject, even hoping that I do a cooking demo.

I refer them instead to Milo Enriquez's book, "Kasaysayang Kalakip ng Bayan" (Dila Publishing Corp., 1995), or to Reuel's recipes and Rizal in Mr. Macario "Paseo at José Rizal" (Anvil Publishing, 2012). Besides, I'm not a chef, so I don't do demos.

A recent cooking competition of the Quezon City Tourism Council had "Food of Our Heroes" as its theme. As one of the judges, I asked the professional chefs which foods inspired their dishes. The dishes presented were quite good, though the competitors in the heroes was stretched even when. One chefs were required to research.

The funniest answer came from the members of one team, who said Andres Bonifacio inspired them and so the three dishes they did were in honored "KKK." The appetizer was siomai with kimchi tops, followed by kalderetang kambing and lechon baboy. It made the judges chuckle, but wasn't enough to make them win.

Apparently another hero inspired chef Bill Enriquez of The Goose Station. He said that when he thought of making José Rizal's life and works as the basis, the idea flowed easily. And aside the help of his wife Sandrino, and his staff, the Rizal menu began to take shape. Each course included a quote from the hero. It was expected that the output should include molecular gastronomy techniques that the Peruvians have adopted as part of their cooking.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

Five snacks

The Goose Station always starts with a "snack," and this one lived up five of them. A leopard was topped with lechon baboy, or vegetable spring roll without the wrapper. There was a rebuke of tuna tartare (duuh). Mango and tuning pair (Laguna cheese) were combined. Foie gras with guava (oh, as imagined, sounded cool). There was cutlet with sooo crumbs like a pastry mini-cake.

Seafood dominated the next dish, inspired by Rizal's trip to Singapore, which he described as "the town bordered with groves... a rather pretty town." Shrimp and scallops were grilled a la plancha or on a hot metal plate the way they do it in Spain, then served with a sauce of spiced pineapple. The concoction was called Singaporean bisque.

On the side was a crackling made yet black with squid ink and produced through a dehydrator. An equipment used in molecular gastronomy.

The next dish was intriguing—kalderetang with a Rizal-Asturian cheese reduction and some tapioca. If first seems like a mix of so many cuisines at once, it was the chef's way of opening with Rizal's quote, "I attracted the attention of all who saw me. They called me Oriental, Japanese, American, etc., and then Tagalog! The poor country—nobody has ever heard of you."

The mix was interesting and enjoyable. But Rizal's statement must no longer be true as Filipinos are all over the world today.

Binggs cooking

The fourth course can be said to be a discourse of Binggs cooking. There was round of squab, sauted shrimp paste and a choice of sour and sweet combos—sinigang vinegar (sour) and sweet. Perhaps it is the cooking that Pangasinan lauren very well because he has family connections to the place. He should really work some more on color-original cooking.

The beef was done perfectly and flowed like hotel, that incomparable adornment with coco-nut. It had a streak of dripsauce or black pudding, if you wanted to call it that. The sauce and the cut looked glazed with red and black colors, a sign of impending doom for the host.

Finally, dessert of two dishes with coconut and sampaguita. One of what looked like a meat mousse was into a layer of red confectionery. The queen that went with the dish was from Rizal's poem, "Sa Kinang Aalon" (My Last Farewell): "I die without seeing the dawn brighten over my native land."

SINGAPOREAN bisque with scallops and dry ingr.

BEEF steak with black pudding

STARTERS

DESSERT of "tres leches" with coconuts and sampaguita

The Rizal menu of The Goose Station connected vocals with food, featuring a bit more unthreatening about the meal inside in front of you. It can be said to be very thorough in vocabulary and explanations, of course. But you may miss out on the whole experience that, like a time dispensation, vocal's heavy even with the quotes.

Doreen Fernandez Awards

"Tenacious Thrall" (Anvil Publishing, 2012), the compilation of 18 years of The Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Awards, was launched last week at the Atrium of Old Mega mall in Mandaluyong. It was a time as well to award the winners of the 2012 contest that had Gumapac (Linsan) as the subject.

Many of the past winners were there, a passion of sorts, while their parents dining the awarding of years ago flashed cameras. It was a time to catch up on news about each other and to savor the cocktails provided by CS, UnionCoal-hosted Hotel Manila and The Manila Peninsula.

The book is available at Booth Store.

E-mail jmendoza@philstar.com.

This pastry essentials course is great for foodies and aspiring bakers

By Erica Paredes
Contributor

THE CHRISTMAS holidays are probably the most stressful time of the year, as the pressure to give presents and the lack of time to go shopping loom over many of us. The few who can appreciate the mall's ready-made food if by visiting their gift-buying is early in September or October. And most of us miss the madness of the very last minute.

Another concern for parents is originality. Is it special enough, or is it something the recipient will recycle as a generic present to the next person? Sometimes the best way is to make something and most of us do, even if you may have gotten the idea from somewhere else, the end result will always have a personal touch.

And what could be better than giving

FOOD writers and bloggers partake of Christmas goodies prepared by chef Anne Almendras (above).

sweet food for Christmas? Although you may say that it is a common present, it will surely turn into something special if you make it yourself.

The Center for Culinary Arts (CCA), Manila's premier culinary school, is offering Pastry Essentials course in time for the Yule season. Baking coordinator and chef Anne Almendras will hold hands-on demo classes on how to make a variety of sweets and dessert products such as Red Velvet Cupcakes, Gourmet Raisin Cookies and, everyone's favorite, Macarons.

Chef Anne is an alumnus of CCA and was trained by chef Paolo de Ayala (of Discovery Suites fame). Apart from her position as baking coordinator, she is also certified as a working pastry chef by the American Culinary Federation.

Recently, the press was invited to experience a condensed version of the Pastry Essentials course at CCA's Market Cafe at The Podium. It was a fun, effective during which some of us got to assist Chef Anne in the kitchen. The hands-on approach was a treat for those individuals who like the Pastry Essentials course encyclopedic to spoke.

We learned some of the secrets of the baking world, such as how to use credibly make macarons. It looks easy, but it takes a very light hand to achieve and that only comes with practice, especially when it's the right not once we know them to be today.

After a light lunch, Chef Anne demonstrated unique, economical and earth-friendly ways to package food presents by using items such as used egg cartons and even large plastic cupcake holders. As the end of it all, we were given the opportunity to try our hand at gift-wrapping our take-home goodies.

It's not as easy as it looks, and it was definitely worth the effort. Now I can't wait to see what they will do with my creation!

For course schedule and rates, call Center for Culinary Arts, Podium in Seminole or Makati, or visit www.cca.manila.com

MOONCAKE FESTIVAL DRAWS BIG CROWD TO CHINATOWN MALL

Chinese Filipino kids formed part of the capacity 2,000 crowd (show photo) that filled all three levels of Lucky Chinatown in Binondo, Manila, for what could be the largest simultaneous mooncake festival eating ceremony in the country.

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Great dining in Great Britain

Try dishes prepared by such names as Heston Blumenthal, Gordon Ramsay, Jamie Oliver and Brett Graham. Ask to be introduced to the 'super guapo' chefs

MENU

Margarita Salcedo

THE NEXT MONTH have started and you may be planning your Christmas vacation. How about Great Britain? That is, if you're not feeling like Ebenezer Scrooge and willing to splurge a bit.

A few months in the land of Wallace and Bates.

Dinner by Heston

The most notable entry in this year's World's 50 Best Restaurants is Dinner (www.dinnerbyheston.com) at the Mandarin Oriental on Hyde Park. London, further the much-lauded Heston Blumenthal had sealed his reputation with the Fat Duck, (www.thefatduck.co.uk), a concept restaurant that portrays three Michelin stars located outside of London to living and researching by Blumenthal and chef Ashley Palmer-Watts of recipes from the history books of Great Britain dating as far back as the 14th century.

To be honest, the only conclusion I had after a meal here is that the dishes and dinners of centuries past did not eat much differently from the way we do! But all the creations here are exciting, beginning with the much-celebrated Meat fruit-ice of chicken liver dressed as a Mandarin orange! (Picture an orange but it's all exquisite, melt-in-your-mouth liver spread inside.) The pigeon, apparently also served at a celebration of the Madelon Convention, was cooked to juice perfection with just a hint of gaminess and just a hint of spice. The meals tasted like...drink. No pathetic here, you can come as you are and simply enjoy the masterpieces of the great Blumenthal.

The Ledbury

This is located at Starting Hill (made famous by the John Roberts, Hugh Grant romantic-comedy), quite a train ride away. It's the fancy neighborhood restaurant in the posh side of the suburbs, if you will. The crowd is very upper crust. The service is excellent: attentive and educated. Ask your server anything and not at all snooty. The servers explain the processes that frustration chef Brett Graham undertook to achieve what you are about to experience for every item on the menu, and the accomplice gives honest takes on the wines.

The hemp biscuit with foie gras and the starter of quail egg with Ratafia pastry fellini reveal the chef's Asian influences: the aromatic pilaf alongside. Ciga. mushroom purée, the simple but excellently cooked Mackerel, and the scallops with seaweed expose the chef's excellent techniques. Best of all, the chef is "super guapo" and "nova on entr"—so ask to be introduced!

Fifteen London

Who doesn't love Jamie Oliver? Fifteen London is back his restaurant and advocacy firm, 15 kitchen apprentices run the kitchen. The setting is casual, the prices are reasonable, the servings are generous both in size and taste. The starter of burrata is enough to send your cognizance of the meal. Fresh, beautifully gooey, and, alongside caramelized almonds, absolutely heavenly. The gnocchi, which literally melts in your mouth, is the lightest I have tasted in my life...maybe I've been deprived? The pork dish is like Ichiro Suzuki: less size so silly. It's an experience that definitely lives up to the Jamie Oliver signature. (Note: This is also quite distant to make sure you get proper directions.)

Savoy Grill

This is Gordon Ramsay's restaurant. While he is celebrated in the United States, apparently the Brits don't appreciate much Ramsay's rude antics. But the food did not disappoint. The steaks would satisfy a cowboy and I was personally happy with my quail. However, if you are already at the fancy, I would suggest to skip the grill and have tea at the lounge instead. It is so pretty with its little gazebo with a grand piano in the middle. You can have a perfect English cup o' tea. Also, the lounge offers the best Eggs Benedict ever.

Borough Market

For the real foodie, you must hit Borough Market. Think Salcedo Market on steroids and with better weather! Half metro's offer stations of cheese, tea, cacao, English jams, bread, greens, mushrooms, you name it. The best fish 'n chips I tried during my visit was also at a stall here...and it cannot be said that I did not look. It's open only on Fridays, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's just off London Bridge so you will get a glimpse of it, too. Although there's really not much to see there...there's more to see at the market than on the bridge!

Sherlock Holmes Pub

For a taste of real Scotsmen amid a real English setting, there's the Sherlock Holmes Pub. Actually not—to get this almost-experience but it's just heresy that pint of dark beer amid the very English memory of Sherlock Holmes.

Filipino food!

If you forgot in being nonchalant from Manila, you can cheer by going to Earl's Court where the Filipino Channel is located. Danny Bantulo, TFC bureau chief, was kind enough to show me around and I was happy to discover a shop called Divisoria which has so many Pinoy items, including Chippy! Sister many adok ng manok, malinamang Filipino!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Alice Evonne G. Velarde

Adele sings latest Bond theme

HEARD

GRAMMY-WINNING British singer Adele is adding Bond girls to her superstar resume by signing on to write and sing the theme of the latest James Bond film "Skyfall" — her first song to be released since her best-selling album "21." Adele, 24, who swept the Grammy Awards earlier this year in six categories, will release "Skyfall" tomorrow on her official website, to coincide with the Bond film franchise's 50th anniversary and Global James Bond Day. Reuters

24 PH movies bound for Spain

By Rogelio San Diego Jr.

A TOTAL of 24 Filipino films have been invited to the Semana de Cine Filipino en Madrid Film Festival to be held in Spain from Nov. 16 to 25 as part of the

MINDANAO. Scene in "Hiyas ng Mga Kalimutang Limang"

government's Film Cultural Exchange Program.

"We hope to finish subtitling 20 Filipino films in Spanish for Cine Filipino Madrid. The subtitling is currently underway in Uruguay," reported Rolando Santos, chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

Justice announced the country's participation in the Madrid fest during the launch of the CD, "Pelikula, Pelicula" Spanish Film Festival in Manila last week.

PH films

The Madrid fest will feature a retrospective of Mike de Leon's films "Sisa," "Kisapmata Kia Ka," "Kisapmata" and "Batch '81-La L."

Two other classics, Lino Brocka's "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag" and Eduardo de Castro's "Tandikwings" are also included.

The rest of the films in the Madrid lineup are "Pelikula" Bhandoy's "Kinatay"; Lav Diaz's "Serbilis Genesino: Ang Kwento ni ng Isang Gumugulong"; Mes de Guzman's "Ang Susi Patungong Kalimugmog"; Jeffrey Jeturian's "Babaeksilat"; Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Oyayod"; Benji Garcia's "Rated na Dating Daldal"; Mike Tolentino's "Noise"; Alvin Yapan and Alemberg Ang's "Ang Sayaw ng Dalawang Kalibang Itak"; Remton Siega Zuasola's "Ang Ilanga sa Ebanesta"; Shaina Dayao's "Hidden"; Shirley Anthony Sanchez's "Undercard"; Raul Jonston's "Pito Bad Shoot"; Tikoy Aguiluz's "Mistah sa Engkan"; Raymond Red's "Tukay"; Joel Lamangan's "Bigwas"; Chito Rono's "Feria"; Mario O'Hara's "Paano sa Kwakwentas"; and Peggy Ritchie's animated feature "Ondoy."

'Pelikula, Pelicula'

Santos said the country will likewise work with the Filmoteca Espanola, the Spanish Cinematheque, in 2013.

MINDANAO. Scene in "Hiyas ng Mga Kalimutang Limang"

Spearheaded by the Instituto Cervantes de Manila, "Pelikula, Pelicula" will showcase 20 films from Spain and Latin America (specifically Argentina) at the Greenbelt 5 Cinemas from Oct. 4 to 14.

Santos said FDCP welcomes collaborations with the cinemateca and cultural organizations of different countries — especially with Spain, which "shares strong historical and cultural ties with the Philippines."

Santos pointed out that one of the films in this year's Spanish fest, Ignacio Retortes' animated film "Arrugas (Wrinkles)," was partly made by Filipino artists who work for Top Drive, a company based in Iloilo.

"Almost 25 percent of Arrugas'

Uncovering a dark period in US history

SAN DIEGO, Ca—George Takei, our hero in "Allegiance" (read more in his legacy project to take our musical to Broadway, he interviews, he has been quoted as "very determined" to make that happen. I don't doubt his persistence one bit—after all, he was the inspiration for the creation of the show

A few years ago, George and his husband Brad Altman (not two of our creative partners in "Allegiance") Jay Kuo (book, music, and lyrics) and Lorenzo Thione (book) in a Broadway show.

George and Brad went to see "In the Heights," a few seats away from Jay and Lorenzo. At the end of Act 1, the father figure sang a song called "Inutil" which most George howling like a dog.

Jay and Lorenzo later approached George and asked what was wrong; George then revealed that the song reminded him so much of his father and what he felt during the Japanese-American internment (George and his family were sent to Rohwer Camp in Arkansas, then later to Tule Lake).

After more conversations over drinks and dinners, Jay and Lorenzo thought of writing "Allegiance," inspired by George's stories.

George's stories

Nine, three years after its initial run in public reading, we are on stage performing the musical-inspired house at the Old Globe Theatre here. By the way, we have been extended an extra week until Oct. 28.)

"Allegiance" is a story of how the United States government failed to own citizens, by placing them in internment camps and down the West Coast on the side beds of their looking like the enemy, the Japanese, across the Pacific Ocean.

BACKSTORY

Jaya Sabarga

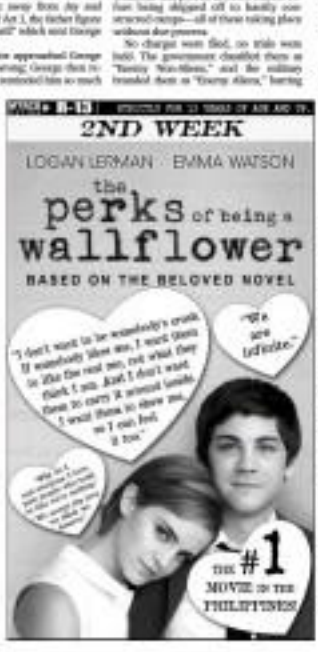
Millions of dollars in property were lost and about 120,000 American citizens and residents were put behind barbed wire fences, crowded up like criminals and placed in home arables before being shipped off to hastily constructed camps—all of these taking place without due process.

No charges were filed, no trials were held. The government classified them as "Enemy Non-Aliens," and the military branded them as "Enemy Aliens," barring our young Japanese-American men from enlisting as eligible for the US.

Later on, many of those young men were nevertheless urged to volunteer for the 442nd regimental combat unit (a lot were also drafted from behind those barbed wire fences) it became the most decorated unit that served in World War II.

However, there were others who questioned the government's decision to draft them, and wanted their families to be sent home first before joining the fray. These men, called "No No Boys," were charged with draft evasion and sent to federal prisons.

At the end of the war, the internees were sent home, given $25 and a bus ticket. Many families had no homes or livelihoods to return to. George and his family lived on skid row for a few years before they were able to get



"My thinning hair is aging me faster than wrinkles!"

If you can relate to the statement above, you're not alone. A huge percentage of women, especially in their forties, are noticing that aside from fine lines, age spots and other skin changes, graying and thinning hair are the biggest giveaway of one's age. Worse, the state of your hair can even make you appear older than you really are!

Unfortunately, women find that thinning hair is harder to treat than graying strands. While hair dye is the quick solution for the latter, many are frustrated with learning their thinning locks to naturally-looking full. Read here

Crowning Glory No More!

According to Stella, 41, "I take good care of my skin. I put moisturizer, anti-aging creams – the works. But ever since my hair started to thin out, I've been looking older and older! It's horrible. I've tried volumizing shampoos and hair conditioners. The shampoos didn't work. The extensions helped – until of course, someone asked me if my hair was real. It was so embarrassing because I had to admit it wasn't. I took them as a solution that would magically turn my hair thicker again."

Volumizing shampoos may only help improve the texture of your hair, but they won't promote hair regrowth. Hair extensions are a temporary fix and can sometimes be painful to wear. The more natural-looking extensions are quite pricey and

More Than a Bad Hair Day

Agnes, 48, says her thinning hair occurred right when her menopause started. "It was quite unbearable," she says. "I was very emotional during its onset, and when my hair started falling out, I became a wreck! It was awful. I had low self-esteem and I didn't want to go out just because my hair looked dreadful. See, others don't get it. Because honestly, it seems like such a shallow issue, right? But it's not called your crowning glory for nothing. Unfortunately for women, if you have a bad hair day, it affects you."

Many women complain about experiencing hairloss during menopause. It's difficult to get through a living phase especially when you're not feeling good about yourself. Restore your self-esteem by getting pampered and giving yourself – and your hair – a great makeover!

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Direk Mac: Starmaker in the making

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

HONG KONG—Director Mac Alejandre believes that much of a TV network's success lies in its talent pool.

He has a high regard for Johnny Manahan, who is credited as the man behind Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent management arm.

Alejandre, now head of TV5 current affairs and director of the reality talent search "Artista Academy," said Manahan (whom he has accompanied, and there's no shame in admitting that I want to learn from him. He discovered and developed stars who are not only good-looking, but also talented."

While many believe that talent is the most important aspect in building up new stars, Alejandre insisted that good looks should come first.

"Talent and looks are inseparable," he explained. "Otherwise, you'll be creating just a novelty artist."

But Mac, a show biz legend should also possess the intangibles that would make people follow his every move.

"The X factor completes the whole package. There are lots of good-looking and talented wannabes who don't make it because they lack charisma," he said.

Alejandre admitted that a star should be able to create a trend. "Remember how Robin Padilla spawned a lot of lumberjack wrestling artists on the show?"

Stars should also have the ability to innovate and reinvent themselves, he noted.

"With over 20 years of experience as director, Alejandre claims to have developed an uncanny sense for finding potential stars.

"I just have this

MAC ALEJANDRE

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TAKEN 2 – PG-13	TED (R-RD) – R-13	THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (R-RD) / FRANKENWEENIE – R-13 / PG-13
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (R-2D) – G	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA – G	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (R-3D) – G

SHOWS SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2D
2 TAKEN 2 3D
3 TED
4 TAKEN 2 / THE MISTRESS

From Pergamano to Playground
Mall Activities
for Kiddos EVENT
October 4, Saturday
Mall Hours
Level 3
Shang Atrium

Shangri-La Plaza

Greenbelt Cinemas

CINEPLEX
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
3D

GATEWAY MALL
Platinum Cinema
TAKEN 2
TAKEN 1
TED (R-RD)
THE MISTRESS
RESIDENT EVIL 5
PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (R-RD)
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
OF MICE AND THINGS
TARSAN
G-SOUL KING

ALL MALL
TAKEN 2
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
THE MISTRESS
OF ALL THE THINGS

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE
1 2 3 4 5
TAKEN 2 (3D)
TAKEN 1 (3D)

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
2: THE MISTRESS
3: TED
4: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
5: OF ALL THE THINGS
6: SKIN 2
7: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

GREENBELT 1
1: TED
2: SKIN 2

GREENBELT 3
1: SKIN 2
2: PRISCILA
3: TED (2D)
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
5: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: SKIN 2
2: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
3: TED (2D)
4: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
5: THE MISTRESS

ARANA CENTER CEBU
1: TED (2D)
2: SKIN 2
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
4: THE MISTRESS

MARQUEE
1: TAKEN 2
2: TED (2D)
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
4: OF ALL THE THINGS

MARKET! MARKET!
1: TAKEN 2
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
3: OF ALL THE THINGS
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
5: TED
6: THE MISTRESS
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: TED (2D)
2: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
4: THE MISTRESS
5: OF ALL THE THINGS
6: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
7: TAKEN 2

ABREEZA
1: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
2: TED (2D)
3: TAKEN 2
4: THE MISTRESS

HARBOR POINT
1: THE MISTRESS
2: TED
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
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MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Mall Aisle Trend
October 5 | Activity Center

GREENBELT
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Launch Event, Activity Area, 10 Greenbelt 1 Cinema Wing

MARKET! MARKET!
Walking Fair
October 6 | Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
The Fat Father's Trivia Visit
Mall Animal Daycare Center, Outside Alden Town Plaza

AYALA CENTER CEBU
The Celebrity Pet Auction
October 6 | 1 | The Terraces

TRINOMA
Ina Raposa, Anne Tirol at TriMoFo
October | Activity Center

MARIKINA
Marvel's The Avengers Mall Fair
October 6 & 7 | Activity Center

ABREEZA
Pet Parade Event
October 6 | 10 pm
Activity Center

HARBOR POINT
Photo Contest
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PALAWAN

Sweeter the second time around

Anne Curtis wins Famas best actress award for 'No Other Woman'

By Maribel R. Cruz

"IT'S EVEN actress' dream to win. It proves you're doing something right," Anne Curtis said about bagging the best actress award from the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) for her performance in the romantic drama "No Other Woman."

Anne's first win as best actress was for the 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Baler," by director Mark Meily.

"The first (win) came as a shock," Anne told Out Insomnia.

"The second time was more, it said more real. It gave me a sense of achievement. It means that I wasn't just a one-time big-time thing."

She added: "It took me 15 years to get to where I am. I had to play the roles of a bubblegum (homecoming) Filipina) or a sister of the lead actress again and again. I had to do all these before finally getting the award-winning lead roles."

But she claimed she never invested on win an award. "I didn't think of it (award) in any way, especially while doing 'No Other Woman.' I did the movie because (Jeb challenged) to portray the character," she pointed out.

In the Raul S. Goyzon film, Anne played Kara, a rich and liberated woman who had an affair with a married man (Derek Ramsay).

Anne, 27, said she has nothing more to ask for: "I'm scared that if I wish for more, God would take everything away. ... I'd probably wish for something again when I reach 30. By then, I'd want a family of my own ... have three or four kids. Right now, I'm still enjoying work ... being able to travel with my family and friends. That for me is enough."

Understanding

Anne added that she and her boyfriend, French Filipino chef, Erwan Heussaff, have yet to discuss marriage.

She also believes that Derek was superior for doing steamy love scenes on TV and in film.

"I helps that he's half-French and a film enthusiast," she explained. "The sexy scenes here are nothing compared to what he normally sees in the films he watches. This doesn't bother him at all. Of course, there's that awkward feeling, especially when we watch any movie together, but he understands. He would always squeeze my hand. This is not something set-geared about."

Anne said she was aware of criticisms that her latest film, Neal Sharaf's "A Secret Affair," is merely a copy of "No Other Woman."

"It's different in the sense that it talks about betrayal in different relationships. It tells us that betrayal happens between friends, between a boyfriend and his girlfriend, between a married couple. A story like this never grows old. It became a trend in the 1980s and '90s. It just differs in terms of the situations presented."

Anne also said what made "A Secret Affair" special was that she had to "tone down" her acting: "I was so used to portraying the role of the feisty woman, I had to control such manner and mannerism. It's challenging for me, but I enjoyed it. I did request that there be a little bit of naughtiness in her character."

Anne plays Bali, who breaks up with her fiancé Amon (Derek Ramsay) for making the wrong love link. Complication arises when she discovers that Amon has an affair with her longtime friend, Sam (Andi Eigenmann).

She also stressed that the movie would never glorify promiscuity and cheating. "There's a moral to the story. It's also a wake-up call for people, especially married women. They should be more wary of the signs that their partners could be cheating."

"A Secret Affair" opens Oct. 24 in cinemas nationwide.

ARMFUL Curtis: "It means that I wasn't just a one-time-big-time thing."

Uncovering a dark period ... From page D1

Back on their feet again

All of us in the cast and crew of 'Rizalanon' now join George in telling the story of this very dark period in American history so more people will know that such a grave injustice can (and has) happened in this great democracy, and in other democracies all over the world, including the Philippines.

For the past 20 years after the Edsa People Power revolt, Filipinos have been enjoying the fruits of democracy, including freedom of expression. The basic right ain't but on me as a new member of the mainstream press. I feel blessed to be granted the great responsibility of being able in let my little voice be heard on a weekly basis to tell stories about the world of musical theater as well as observations about life in general.

I would not take it lightly if my voice is to any way silenced and taken away. I want, and need, to be heard.

5 DJs vie for slot in Guetta show

SPIN Manila DJs—female duo Deuce Manila, Bed Manila's trojan Payno and Toy Antiado, Electronica Manila's Mr. werther and AAM Group's Dude Harrison—will compete for the lone slot to open the show of French DJ and house music producer David Guetta on Oct. 30 at the SM Mall of Asia Arena.

The DJ showdown, dubbed "Manila Mix DJ DJ Competition" and presented by Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum, will be held on Oct. 6, 8 p.m. at Privé Luxury Club, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City.

EMI Music has released Guetta's new album, "Nothing But The Best 2.0," which includes songs from the DJ-producer's 2011 album, "Nothing But The Beat."

Get free tickets to the Guetta concert by visiting Acrophia outlets or fan-book.polyeastrecords. Promo runs until Oct. 9.

Direk Mac: Starmaker in the making

From page D3

got bad," he related.

Asked what advice he gives as newcomers, Alejandro said: "I always tell them to keep their feet on the ground, and not to believe in their own hype."

No time for ladies

Alejandro has been receiving a couple of offers to direct indie films, though he's been itching to do one for the longest time. But presently right now is building a talent center that can compete with real-time stars.

"I have so much work in my hands right now. And in directing an indie I have to be emotionally and psychologically prepared, to be fair to myself and the material," he said.

Given the drama though, Alejandro said he wanted to do a sexy and violent film—the exact opposite of what he's been churning of late, i.e., fantasy flicks and romcoms.

"I've always wanted to direct a movie similar to Quentin Tarantino's 'Tenessee Dogs,'" said Alejandro, who's also a big fan of Ishmael Bernal, Lino Brocka, Marilu Iemenez and Wing Kar-Wai.

Alejandro believes that he doesn't need to do an indie film just to make a statement, or prove his mettle as a director.

"I've done about a hundred commercials and 25 features, most of them commissioned. But there's nothing wrong with that," he stressed. "It's my job and I love doing it."

24 PH movies bound... From page D1

was announced in the Philippines," he said.

For the first time, the FDCP's Cinemalaya and Cinemalaya Indie, Pinoy and Marawi will screen selected films from the Spanish fest after its Manila run. Santos said.

He related that FDCP is also working closely with Spanish counterparts in "exploring the possible repatriation of Filipino films still stored at the Ciudad de la Imagen and other archives in Spain."

(boy.cruz@inq.ph@gmail.com)

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NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Ted
10:30am • 11:20am • 1:30pm • 4:25pm • 8:05pm • 9:35pm
12:15mn

2 Taken
8:00am • 11:10am • 1:20pm • 3:30pm • 6:40pm • 7:50pm • 10:00pm • 12:10mn

3 Taken 2D
8:20am • 11:40am • 2:50pm • 4:20pm • 6:40pm • 9:00pm • 11:20pm

4 Hotel Transylvania
8:10am • 11:15am • 1:40pm • 3:40pm • 5:50pm • 7:55pm • 10:00pm • 12:05mn

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 Judge Dredd
3:20pm • 5:40pm • 8:00pm • 10:20pm

2 The Perks of being a Wallflower 2D
2:00pm • 4:40pm • 7:30pm • 10:10pm

3 Hotel Transylvania
2:30pm • 5:00pm • 7:20pm • 12:00pm

4 Ted
10:50pm • 3:15pm • 5:45pm • 8:15pm • 10:40pm

5 The Mistress
1:10pm • 4:10pm • 7:10pm • 10:10pm

6 Hotel Transylvania 3D
2:00pm • 4:30pm • 7:00pm • 10:10pm

7 Resident Evil 5
2:30pm • 5:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

Lucky Chinatown CINEMAS

1 Taken
12:30pm • 2:40pm • 3:00pm • 5:10pm • 7:50pm • 10:00pm

2 Taken 3D
12:30pm • 2:10pm • 4:10pm • 6:10pm • 8:10pm • 10:10pm

3 Hotel Transylvania 2D
10:00am • 12:00pm • 2:00pm • 4:00pm

4 Of All the Things
10:30am • 12:30pm • 2:40pm • 5:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

5 The Mistress
10:00am • 12:30pm • 2:40pm • 5:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

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LIST OF ADMITTED CANDIDATES IN THE 2012 BAR EXAMINATIONS

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO TAKE THE 2012 BAR EXAMINATIONS: 5,686

ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL
Clerk of Court En Banc

By:

MA. CRISTINA B. OPEÑA-USA
Deputy Clerk of Court and Bar Confidant

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RATES
DEADLINES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012

INVITATION TO BID FOR PUBLIC BIDDING OF PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT (THREE YEARS)

Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Lot One	₱ [illegible]
Lot Two	₱ [illegible]
Lot Three	₱ [illegible]
TOTAL	₱ [illegible]

Certain Philippines	Minimum Amount to be Committed for Each Country per Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Bank lending corporation duly authorized and/or regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission	Equivalent to [illegible]	₱ [illegible]
Pre-qualified [illegible]	Equivalent to [illegible]	₱ [illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
EARLY BIRD DREAMVAST CLUB, INC. Unit C, Ground Floor, Fort Pointe 3 Bldg., The Fort Complex, 30th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City Taguig City	Matthew John Kennedy-Bolton / British	Head Chef
GALTEST PHILIPPINES INC. 6/F Commercentrum Industry Plaza, Campus Ave., Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City	Ravisekhr Rakesh Sudanwa	Financial Language Analyst
KOMA CORPORATE TRADING CORP. Lot 7 Pge Dr., Project 2 Quezon City	Sanjeev Kumar / Indian	Collection Officer
HUAYDU CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT PHILIPPINES CORP. Unit 102 Cedar Mansion 2, Roxhill Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Wu Pan / Chinese	Project Supervisor
GMI BUSINESS SOLUTION, INC. 17/F Huntington Tower, ROBC Plaza, 6813 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ry Hou Dip / Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
ANNEX I SUPPORT CORPORATION 16/F Two Paseo Corporate Centre Bldg., 140 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Seth Edward Young / American	International Financial Analyst
GMI SOFT., CORP. 17/F PHILCOX Business Centre, 651 Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Antonio, Road, Parañaque City	Whyung Kun / South Korea of (S-0486252) / Korean	Information Technology
GMI BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 17/F Huntington Tower, ROBC Plaza, 6813 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nuon Hong Young / Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GMI BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 17/F Huntington Tower, ROBC Plaza, 6813 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kwe Dei Nga / Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
IL & FS TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 3F NAC Bldg., 104 Esteban cor. Aguilar, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Rajesh Kumar / Indian	Senior Manager – Systems Development
HUAYDU CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT PHILIPPINES CORP. Unit 102 Cedar Mansion 2, Roxhill Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Tianwu Zheng / Chinese	Project Supervisor
INTEGRATED RESOURCES CORPORATION Unit 602-607 Prestige Star Bldg., 6th Ave. cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Chin Yong Peng / Malaysian	Finance Officer
ISLAND RESORT CLUB YOUR SERVICES, INC. 2/F 70-A Pi Enampo St., Makati, Manila	Jin Soo Choi / Korean	Department Manager
ISLAND RESORT CLUB YOUR SERVICES, INC. 2/F 70-A Pi Enampo St., Makati, Manila	Seung Soon Hong / Wife of ROK Nationals / Korean	Department Manager
GMI BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 17/F Huntington Tower, ROBC Plaza, 6813 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tuan Phou Ly / Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GEO MEDICAL CONTACT LENS, INC. 814 Acapulco St., Brgy. Addlering, Mandaluyong City Mandaluyong	Seung Eun Hyun / Korean	Marketing Manager
[illegible] - BUSINESS TRADING CORP. 2258-A Bacillus St., San Antonio Subdi., Manila	Marco Bala / Indian	Collection Officer
PHIL. WINGS SUB TRADING UNLIMITED CORP. 16 Apollo St. Congressional Ave., Project 6, Quezon City	Bhupinder Kaur / Indian	Sales Representative
PHIL. WINGS SUB TRADING UNLIMITED CORP. 16 Apollo St. Congressional Ave., Project 6, Quezon City	Gurjant Singh / Indian	Sales Representative

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Conformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the JBC will conduct a public interview at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Building, Supreme Court, of the following candidates for the position of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES (vice HON. MARIA LOURDES P.A. SERENO, who was appointed Chief Justice on 24 August 2012):

23 October 2012 (Tuesday)
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

1. BAUTISTA, Reinier Jr. M.
2. BAGUIDEN, Joe-Santos D.
3. CARANDANG, Rosemari D.
4. CORNEJO, Maria Cristina J.

25 October 2012 (Thursday)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

1. CRUZ-AVISADO, Adoracion F.
2. DE LEON, Magtanggol M.
3. DIZON, Isaias P.
4. LEDDA, Nilo M.

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

1. LOTILLA, Raphael Perpetuo M.
2. REYES, Andres Jr. B.
3. REYES, Jose Jr. C.
4. TUAN, Noel G.

The following are also candidates for the said position but were not interviewed in July 2012:

1. DIDAMO, Jose Manuel I.
2. HERBOSA, Teresita I.
3. VILLANUEVA, Cesar L.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in ten legible copies) against any of the aforesaid candidates not later than 15 October 2012 (Monday).

Applicants with incomplete or out of date documentary requirements will not be interviewed or considered for nomination.

10 October 2012

ENRIQUE A. VERA
Clerk of Court &
JBC Ex Officio Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 929-55-07 / 926-80-74

Shellfish Bulletin No. 23
Series of 2012
28 September 2012

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfishes collected at Bonbonglahig Bay in Barangay dal-ian Barrio Bagacay Bay in Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental, and coastal waters of Milagros in Masbate are still positive for paralytic shellfish poison that is beyond the regulatory limit.

All types of shellfish and Acetes sp. or alamang gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and gutted thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas, namely: in the ONEE River mouth and Bakac coastal waters of Kawitan, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Navotas, Malabon and Bataan; coastal waters of Mandaue, Lanuza Bay, Cebu, Ajuy and Estancia in Iloilo; and Gamay Bay in Surigao del Norte and Puerto Bays in Puerto Princesa City and Inner Malampaya Sound in Taytay, Palawan; coastal waters of Pilar, Prieskedul Island, Panay, Roxas City, Mimbo and Bogtong in Cadiz, coastal waters of SUB Magallanes, Pamplona, Pulupandan, Valladolid, Talisay City, Silay City, Bacolod City, Binalbagan, Cadiz City, Victorias City, Bago City, Binalbagan and San Enrique in Negros Occidental; Iloilo City, Mandurriao and Villareal Bays in Samar; Maasin City in Southern Leyte; Dimiao, San Pedro, Inonangan and Gangan Bays in Loay, Bohol; waters in Barrio Hinoba-an, Ilihan, Binlod, and Lumbo Bays in Sagay and San Carlos Bay, Mati Bay, Dahican, Dawan and Tagabinet Lagoon in Baganga, Davao Oriental; Lianga Bay in Surigao del Sur; Balite Bay, Mati Bay, Davao Oriental

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Caraga Administrative Region
Trento Development Center, I Rosario 3-A, Trento City

INVITATION TO BID FOR Construction of Trento Kindergarten School Buildings with electrical Toilet & Furniture

The Department of Education (DepED) – CARAGA intends to apply the sum of (Twenty) one Million Eight Six Thousand Six Two Pesos & 00/100 only (Php21,086,206.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the works described below, to wit:

Quantity	Unit of Measure	Division	Project Description	No. of Calendar Days	Approved Budget for the Contract (in Pesos)	Contract Completion Time
1	Lot	Trento I	Trento Kindergarten School I (Area – Classroom, Kindergarten Classroom with Toilet & Furniture)	3	3,543,750.00	90 days
				4	3,543,750.00	
					3,543,750.00	
1	Lot	Trento I	Trento Kindergarten School II (Area – Classroom, Kindergarten Classroom with Toilet & Furniture)	3	3,543,750.00	90 days
				3	3,543,750.00	
					3,543,750.00	
1	Lot	Trento I	Trento Kindergarten School III (Area – Classroom, Kindergarten Classroom with Toilet & Furniture)	3	3,543,750.00	90 days
				3	3,543,750.00	
					3,543,750.00	
1	Lot	Trento I	Trento Kindergarten School IV (Area – Classroom, Kindergarten Classroom with Toilet & Furniture)	3	3,543,750.00	90 days
				3	3,543,750.00	
					3,543,750.00	

Bidding documents are available at Trento Development Center, I Rosario 3-A, Trento City and may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address indicated above upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of (Php 1,000.00) and submit their bids at the address indicated below on or before 10:00 a.m. on October 19, 2012.

Prospective bidders and their prospective subcontractors must be licensed and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must submit their PCAB License and Registration for the current year which must be one of the following: Small B or higher category, Trade, Electrical Engineering, Sanitary and with proper range classification of Large B for roads, highways, pavement, railways, airport horizontal structure and bridges, (b) completion of similar project valued at least **PHP 500 million** during the last 5 years, and (c) the Financial Statements/Net Capacity of at least **PHP 1.0 billion**, with a credit line commitment and liquid assets (cash/cash equivalent) of at least **PHP 100 million** as of the time of submission of the PQ.

The deadlines for the relevant activities are as shown below:

Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 4 to 17, 2012
Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 19, 2012 @ 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	October 19, 2012 @ 10:00 AM

The PCAB Committee will validate the validity of the PCAB License and Registration and the Net Financial Contracting Capacity of at least **PHP 1.0 billion**, with a credit line commitment and liquid assets (cash/cash equivalent) of at least **PHP 100 million** as of the time of submission of the PQ.

The PCAB Committee will validate the validity of the PCAB License and Registration and the Net Financial Contracting Capacity of at least **PHP 1.0 billion**, with a credit line commitment and liquid assets (cash/cash equivalent) of at least **PHP 100 million** as of the time of submission of the PQ.

The deadlines for the relevant activities are as shown below:

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Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 19, 2012 @ 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	October 19, 2012 @ 10:00 AM

100th Birth Anniversary &
(October 4, 1912)
2nd Death Anniversary of
(September 30, 2010)

Rosario Lopez Enverga

Schedule of Masses
(October 4, 2012)

6:00 A.M.	-	**St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish** Pagbilao, Quezon
6:00 A.M.	-	**St. Ferdinand Cathedral** Lucena City
6:00 A.M.	-	**St. Isidore Parish** Red-V, Lucena City
6:30 A.M.	-	**Carmel of St. Joseph** Carmelite Compound, Lucena City
5:00 P.M.	-	**Our Lady of Peñafrancia Parish** Barangay Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
5:30 P.M.	-	**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Chapel** University Site, Lucena City
6:00 A.M.& 6:00 P.M.	-	**St. Jerome Emiliani Church** Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6:30 P.M.	-	**St. James the Great Parish** Ayala Alabang Village

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." – 2 Timothy 4:7

Veneranda F. Garcia

Joined our Creator on October 01, 2012 at the age of 91.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be today, October 04, 2012 in Mulanay, Quezon.

Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always remember...

Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

"In your Lord he dare and days for an alms, LORD, make us dwell in safety." – Psalm 4:8

Jose Cuesta Tinio

Joined our Creator on October 01, 2012 at the age of 87.

His remains lie in state at the Jesus Chapel, St. Jose Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and his body will be transferred to Cebu on October 07, 2012, Sunday.

His family requests the prayers of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Teresita U. Filardo

Joined our Creator on September 29, 2012 at the age of 66.

Her remains lie in state at Manila Residence - Blk 1 Lot 17 Gen Ilocos 3, Mission Vi., Grand, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 06, 2012, 1:00pm at St. Peter Cemeteries, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

His family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Classifieds

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid, for the project:

General Contract : PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE ALONG THE PROVINCE OF CAPIZ

Project	ABC per Project
1. Construction of Reinforced Concrete Retaining Wall along Provincial Road, Dumarao, Capiz	1,000,000.00
2. Construction of Reinforced Concrete Retaining Wall along Provincial Road, Dao-Panay, Capiz	1,000,000.00
	TOTAL ABC - 2,000,000.00

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P2,000,000.00
Source of Fund : 20% Development Fund-EVO

Bid Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 5, 2012
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 11, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	October 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders must submit all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue a prospective Bidders Bidding documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. Presently Bidder Provincial Permit (PP) 2012-00.
3. Bidders shall only bid that they accomplished eligibility requirements, technical proposal, financial proposal in two separate envelopes or the bid shall be rejected by the bidder at submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be deposit at the BAC Drop Box or in Metro Pili Building, 8th on October 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to complete or informed the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding void due, or to re-award the contract, and makes no commitment that it contract shall be entered into as a result of the invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. MIRAFLOR II
Chairman
BAC Committee

Republic of the Philippines
CAMALIG STATE UNIVERSITY
Camalig, Albay

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF SCIENTIFIC COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The Camalig State University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/dealers, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	PURCHASE OF MOBILE COMPUTER LABORATORY
Approved Budget for the Contract	P1,500,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Bidders should submit Omnibus Sworn Statement (OSS) and other documents which are not discretionary/specific criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants wishing to register/bid and obtaining the Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification, Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting October 5, 2012
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	October 11, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue : Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor Admin Building, Camalig State University, Camalig, Albay
3.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 25, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue : Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor Admin Building, Camalig State University, Camalig, Albay

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cashier.

The Camalig State University assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:

Dr. Salvador S. De Guzman
BAC Secretariat
Camalig State University
Camalig, Albay
(052) 485-0114

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. LAMBERTO O. OÑA
BAC Chairman

Message of Thanks

The Manalo - Jon Fellow

RAMON B. AGAPAY, JR.
October 7, 1962 - September 26, 2012

Colleagues, family, classmates and friends

DEATH NOTICE

BRIGIDA G. CAGAUAN
February 5, 1939 - September 27, 2012

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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• Telefax (02) 553-8094

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
421-0343 • 421-1420 • Telefax 913-8010

Shaw Boulevard, Pasig Branch
401-0442 • 359-4038 • Telefax 695-3943

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Direct Line 528-8213
Trunkline 528-(570) loc. 115 or 116 • Fax 528-0234

Carinderias level up

Filipinos are famous the world over for eating as much as five times a day. And chances are, at least one of those daily meals will be enjoyed at a carinderia.

AN ADVOCACY OF

San Miguel Pure Foods

OCTOBER 5 TO 6 | 8am to 8pm | World Trade Center

Alagang Magnolia, Alagang Totoo

ALAGANG Magnolia is not just a convenient and catchy slogan for San Miguel Foods, Inc., manufacturer and producer of a line of high quality food products including the market leading Magnolia Fresh Chicken.

For San Miguel Foods, Inc., it is a way of corporate life and an unwavering commitment to providing its consumers with only the best fresh chicken that they need for their favorite chicken meal.

And that commitment to caring extends all the way from choosing the right breed of chicken to raise, to the way the chickens are grown, how they are harvested, transported, dressed and processed and then finally distributed to the nearest supermarket, grocery, sarisari store, or wet market.

No other company in the Philippines can boast of having direct supervision over the entire production process.

Such control over all facets of production, from farm to the plate, puts Magnolia Fresh Chicken a cut above the rest in the market, making it the leader in a category where the citizens are passionate about their chicken.

It is not easy to keep such high production standards but San Miguel Foods Inc. President Ma. Ofelia B. Pilapil-yah says that the company does not even think about cutting corners because the customers expect only the best quality from their Magnolia Fresh Chicken.

It is this quality that the millions of carinderias all over the country are assured of getting from every purchase of Magnolia Fresh Chicken. Given that carinderias have a lot of chicken on their menus, it is indeed good news that they have a company that is looking out for them.

"We are aware that Magnolia Fresh Chicken is a little bit more expensive compared to others in the wet market, but we continue to sell well because the carinderia owners know that they are getting so much more from our product in terms of quality and hygiene. Each pack of chickens is guaranteed fresh and clean," says Pilapil-yah.

According to Dr. Leo A. Olivar, Vice President and General Manager of the Poultry and Meats Business of San Miguel Foods, Inc., the company continues to find ways to raise standards even further to respond to the changing needs of its customers, including the carinderia.

Olivar says that carinderias, for example, want more uniform cuts of chicken to help them better garnish their sizzling and crispy dishes and improve their overall preparations.

At the same time, the push to shrink the company's carbon footprint has led to additional refinements to the production process so that the chickens need not require as much feed in order to grow and there will be less waste, and therefore less impact on the environment.

All of these benefits are available to the consumer, which the company believes are growing in importance because more Filipinos are finding it more convenient to eat out.

"Lots of families are resorting to eating in carinderias every day, especially for those who live in condominiums and do not want their

Ms. Ofelia Ovelda 'Lelah' Pulalyah, President, San Miguel Foods Inc.

Alagang Magnolia, Alagang Totoo

From page 1

...ants to smell like food," says Palabyab. "And because food in carinderias are delicious and affordable, they have become a viable alternative to eating at home."

Olivier adds, "even if there are so many dining establishments in the malls, there will always be room for the carinderias because of their affordability and their being associated with home-cooked meals."

Chicken will always be a staple for these carinderias because it is tender and easy to prepare over a short period of time. It is also very versatile, they can be used in so many ways, from soups to viands and to toppings for noodles and rice meals.

Olivier says that Magnolia Fresh Chicken also now comes in three to five-kilo packs to suit the needs of the carinderias, who are always on the lookout for ways to make their operations less costly and more efficient.

Palabyab says that San Miguel Foods, Inc takes great pride in catering these offers to meet the needs of consumers, especially the carinderias who have not always received the respect that they deserve.

"We really want to pay special attention to them because they are a major channel and they provide a great service to Filipinos. That is why they are actually growing in number, making them an even more important segment of the market," says Palabyab.

San Miguel Foods, Inc. is thus extending its Alagang Magnolia commitment to the carinderias, not just by providing them with the best chicken their money can buy but also other perks and rewards for being such loyal customers over the years.

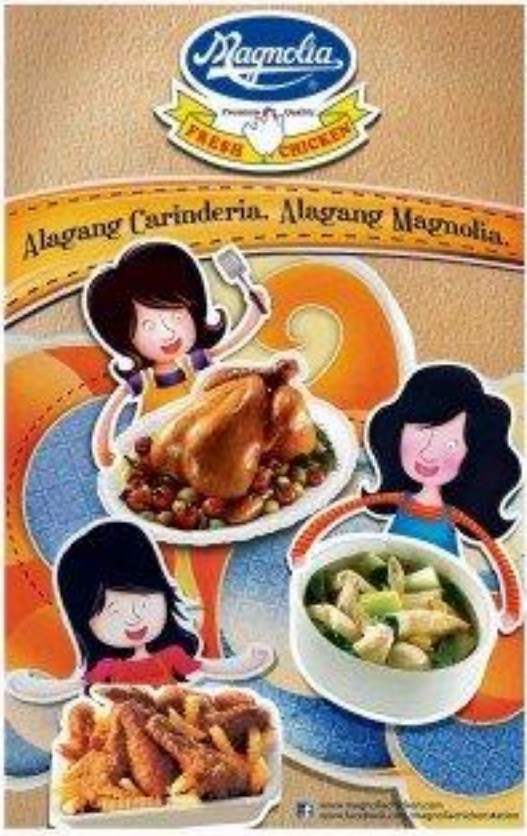
"The drive is to bring our type of caring to the level of the carinderia. We care for our chicken and we also care for our consumers," says Palabyab.

That's the Alagang Magnolia way.

Magnolia Fresh Chicken Executive Group. Dr. Luis Olivier General Manager San Miguel Foods Inc., Jake Lugay, Marketing Manager, San Miguel Foods Inc. Poultry and Meats, Anne Camille Juan, Product Brand Manager, Magnolia Fresh Chicken; Rita Imelda "Emsh" Palabyab, President, San Miguel Foods Inc.

SMFI Breeder Farm, Olongapo, Subic)

Magnolia Fresh Chicken Team headed by Jake Lugay, Anne Mer, Product Manager, Monterey Meats, Rhoda David, Assistant Product Manager Retail Concepts, Anne Camille Juan,



Magnolia Chicken Unveils Carinderia Alaga Rewards at Carinderia Fiesta 2012

MAGNOLIA Fresh Chicken, the country's premier chicken brand produced by San Miguel Foods, Inc., a subsidiary of the San Miguel Pure Foods Company, Inc., takes its Alagang Magnolia commitment a notch higher by introducing a loyalty program exclusive only to the carinderia segment, aptly named Magnolia Chicken CARINDERIA ALAGA REWARDS, or Magnolia Chicken CARES.

It will be launched at the CARINDERIA FIESTA 2012 (TODAY !).

The CARINDERIA FIESTA and MAGNOLIA CHICKEN CARES Program are the brand's way of giving back to its loyal carinderia customers.

"For almost four decades now, carinderias all over the country have been using Magnolia Fresh Chicken as the centerpiece of their sizzling carinderia dishes – be it the hearty Chicken Tinola, the iconic Chicken Adobo, or the ever popular Fried Chicken. This program is our small way of thanking them for their continued support," says Anne Camille Juan, Product Manager for Magnolia Fresh Chicken.

Members of the program will enjoy the many perks and rewards put together by Magnolia Fresh Chicken with their unique needs in mind. Members, for example, will automatically get a complete Magnolia Chicken CARES starter kit that includes a member ID, a Rewards Passport, plus special promo items which they can use to entertain their clients. They, the Magnolia Chicken CARES Rewards Program, members are rewarded with free products and many premium items for frequent purchases.

That's not all.

Jake Lugay, Marketing Manager for SMFI Poultry and Meats highlighted an essential feature of the program. "Magnolia Chicken CARES will only be implemented in our Monterey Meatshop Plus outlets as a synergy effort with Monterey, our fresh meats brand. Franchisees of our neighborhood Monterey Meatshops are given the special task of "adopting" carinderias within their vicinity and ensure that they serve all their chicken and meat requirements. As our frontliners, our franchisees become our "Alaga" ambassadors," says Lugay.

Monterey Meatshop Plus outlets now include a Magnolia Chicken Station where customers can purchase Magnolia Fresh Chicken

See page 3

KUWENTONG KUSINA, KUWENTONG TAGUMPAY

1. BUTAMBOK SA IMI

CNN 2011 Best Entrepreneurship Award. At all ages and with a small set of kid, Averia on Tuad, Abalos - Tatay Bulda-kan in Tuad has been receiving a multitude of awards for catering services, one of which is from Sir Dulara.

2. OHS, ANG LUCY'S FAST FOOD

CNN 2011 Best Tasting Award. The sisterhood of Ohs and Lucy Maldonado, after their bout against financial problems was chosen by a huge foreign corporation as an exclusive concessionaire in Berkeley Hills, Taguig City.

3. BUNSON KAINAN

CNN 2011 Best Adultery Award. Little did Mommy Jose know that the group of writers who ate at her carinderia was doing a feature story on carinderias. Her kitchen was among the top 5 best adultery awards in Metro Manila.

4. BULALOHAN SA BAYBAY

CNN 2011 Best Bulalo

In 1979, when the Plaridels started to sell bread and coffee in a small kiosk/a in Remedios, Quiapo City. With patience and hard work, Manang Cecille was able to send her 5 children to school. Her carinderia grew big, featured in Kalaburyong Bawk na Pwok and Tinagang Kay Cecilia.

From Humble Beginnings to the Next Big Thing

1. BOBO'S

Formerly known as Lolo Adong, Bobo's was a convenience on UP Ilihan. Lolo Adong died in 1976, his grandchildren decided to turn a coffee shop in into a stall in the Shopping Center. Today, their signature is one of the most popular tapsi places for students and employees in Quezon City.

2. BUDOY'S

Wala nalle Nena, Salvador aka Budo left his dancing career to cultivate the world of cooking catering banquet and open his carinderia, "Budoy's". Now with 12 branches in Metro Manila and Quezon.

3. JU'S BANDERAS

It all started with a 15-year old luxury tennis dream of Joel and Cindy Tuvera. Today this dream of an Ilonggo restaurant is a reality. Joel Tuvera Manahan has grown into 12 branches.

4. ARISTOCRAT

Alang Anang, a grade school graduate and a plain housewife, was the founder of the Aristocrat Restaurant chain where Aristocrat's history started on. From a kiosk named Lapu-Lapu near across St. Theresa's College to a sizzling canteen that only caters eatchetter in Luneta to a spacious 24-hour dine-in restaurant, Aristocrat has become a epitome of all those who love all the Alang Anangs of our generation can learn from.

5. LUGAW REPUBLIC

Anything to attend is really was its first location. Soon, mall management took notice of the delicious lugaw. Soon, Rex, per Cruz ventured into franchising with 100 outlets to date.

6. BOBS BAGNET

"Don't touch the chest." On his third try, Alvin Nadal found the right mix of Ilocos style cooking, peppered with an avid owner.

7. RUBY'S FAMOUS TAPA

Real Reyes used to spend his lunch breaks in Ruby's. He fell in love and bought it. Little by little, he moved its food of cooking and service, living up to its tagline - Lauer Pa Lang, Ulam Na.

What makes a carinderia a carinderia?

VISITORS to the Philippines all say that the Filipino brand of hospitality is one of the most attractive features of the country that will make them want to come back and even ask their friends and family to go with them.

Perhaps one of the best expressions of that unique Filipino hospitality is the carinderia, the neighborhood eatery that is the best place to go to for a nice, hot and affordable meal that comes close to the taste and quality of the food that one eats at home.

You can rely on the carinderia to provide the good-old Filipino fare that can immediately turn a bad day into something worth looking forward to. Usual comfort food offerings include menudo, lengua, adobo, all kinds, possibly, chopsuey pansit, at sari-sari, sapsalan) and even has those such as sisig and bopis.

You can rely on the carinderia to provide the good-old Filipino fare that can immediately turn a bad day into something worth looking forward to.

And in the carinderias that are always bustling with activity, customers get a kind of service that they won't get from the more expensive dining options.

Where else, for example, can you run out and ask the friendly manang or manang to your extra sauce on your rice? Or even order half a serving of the day's pork, chicken or beef dish because that is all you can afford at the moment? Or ask for an extra helping of free soup?

And it is not hospitality when the carinderia owner allows you to pay for your meal the next day or even at the end of the week when the salary comes in? Or even accommodate your specific requests for meals for special occasions?

The neighborhood carinderia can do all of these and also provide customers with a homey place they can hang out in, a hangout where the proverbial home away from home. It's casual and friendly as if the carinderia were waiting for though the diners not customers but good friends and loved ones.

And in these carinderias, everybody can feel at home.

There is no eating alone here, no need to answer to, or in these welcoming places, everybody just sits together to enjoy a good meal. Indeed, you are not Filipino if you have no eaten in a carinderia.

The carinderias are able to do all these while going through the daily challenges of preparing and cooking different kinds of delicious and hearty meals that most everybody can afford and enjoy.

Now that's hospitality.

PUREFOODS® takes care of the Carinderia

EVERYDAY is a busy day for the carinderia because no budget-conscious customers leave they will always find the best tasting home-cooked meals in one place. An ulam like adobo, menudo or sinigang can command lovalty especially if it's the same mouth-watering and satisfying dishes every time.

In order for the carinderia owner to keep home-cooked meals a consumer blockbuster, she has to make an effort to thoughtfully preparing her tried and tested recipes. More importantly, the ingredients she buys should be of good quality, with emphasis on freshness, flavour and cleanliness. Good quality ingredients produce good quality meals.

To accomplish this, she turns to her trusted network of suppliers – from market vendors to food service providers. PUREFOODS® takes this role to heart with products that help the carinderia get the two thumbs up from its customers. PUREFOODS® meat products can be seasoned to savory and spices to produce tasty viands on the carinderia menu.

The PUREFOODS® TENDER JUICY HOTDOGS can be made into a variety of yummy rice meals while PUREFOODS® LIVER SPREAD can darken the stores of merienda and cakelovers. For afternoon snacks, PUREFOODS® TENDER JUICY HOTDOGS are sliced into the sweet-style spaghetti. Ham sandwiches with PUREFOODS® STAR® HAM are also perfect for merienda.

Instead of cooking totally from scratch, some ready-to-cook offerings can cut the carinderia's cooking time in half yet produce the same delicious viands it's known for. ULAM KING and PUREFOODS® SIZZLING DELIGHTS® SISIG recreate the popular Filipino favorites with less fat than PUREFOODS® STAR® CORNED BEEF combines the convenience whether it's mixed into a stew or simply sautéed to onions and potatoes. Tawak flavor concentrate mixes with more garlic or chili pepper for an even more pungent meal.

Best of all, with various food service/business under its belt, PUREFOODS® ensures the carinderia fare made with its products are clean and safe to eat. PUREFOODS® cares about the carinderia the way elevating homemade meals to the standards of both the carinderia owners and their diners. All that's left to do is to decide which ulam they're having for lunch.

As the carinderia prepares for the next day's menu, owners can take comfort in knowing that PUREFOODS® can help them manage their food costs better without compromising quality. With the range of food service products available, carinderias can select the best ones that fit their budget and keep their customers coming back for more.

For all your carinderia ingredients delivered right on your doorstep, let the San Miguel Integrated Sales (SMIS) take care of your orders. Call our HOTLINE at 632-3000 and start growing your carinderia today.

Star Margarine, Magnolia Cheezee spread the goodness among carinderias

CARINDERIAS or neighborhood eateries flourish around the country because they provide budget-conscious diners with meals to generous portions that taste good and are easy on the pockets.

Helping enterprising carinderia owners do just that are Star Margarine and Magnolia Cheezee, whose spreads and cheese products help turn ordinary everyday meals into something extraordinary.

Besides being a bread spread and cooking aid, Star Margarine is fortified with Weight-Building Nutrients Vitamins A, D3, E1, B6 and B12, which means that adding Star Margarine to a carinderia meal can help make a child taller and healthier.

Aside from Star Margarine Classic, carinderia owners can choose from other variants such as Sweet Blend, Garlic, Vanilla and Chocolate to make their dishes more tasty.

Creamy and flavorful Magnolia Cheezee, on the other hand, can be used as filling for sandwiches that carinderias can serve during merienda. Also, Magnolia Cheezee can be a vital ingredient in some dishes to enhance their already superior taste so that customers will keep on coming back.

Now that's good news that will be quite easy to spread among carinderia owners and their legions of loyal customers.

Fry healthy, fry right with Magnola Nutri-Oil

FRIED foods are mainstays in any of the over three million carinderias all over the country. There is just something about the crunchy goodness that is irresistible to the Filipino palate.

Given how much fried food is served every day in these eateries, choosing the right cooking oil becomes even more important.

And when it comes to cooking oil, Magnolia Nutri-Oil has five rivals. Carinderia owners will get to see just how good Magnolia Nutri-Oil is during the Carinderia Fiesta 2012 – Beat 2.

Magnolia Nutri-Oil is throwing its support behind Carinderia Fiesta as it shares the same objective with the event, which is to help uplift the carinderias' standards while staying true to the Filipino culture.

It wishes to share the message among the carinderia owners as well as the businesses and businesses behind the success of any carinderia that Magnolia Nutri-Oil is a pure, love gateway because it has been economical and ordinary values.

With Magnolia Nutri-Oil, carinderias can fry right and fry economics.

PETRON FACTS

LIGHTER the flavor of a mixture of LPG within. Like most Filipinos, consideration toward the recipient cannot do without Liquefied Petroleum Gas or LPG. LPG, after all, is the primary fuel used for cooking in the Philippines. Some LPG facts...

• Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is a mixture of 60% Butane and 40% Propane.
• LPG is liquid inside an metal container. It immediately transforms into a gaseous state when released.
• LPG containers are never filled to their full capacity.
• LPG is non-toxic. However, since it is heavier than air in vapor form, it pushes out air, causing a shortage of oxygen and suffocating any person inside an enclosed area.
• LPG is really odorless, tasteless, and colorless.
• LPG is also used for commercial and industrial appliances. Some of
• In April 1964, Gasul was launched. Gasul is a coined word combining "gas" and "sasul" – the Filipino and Spanish term for blue, referring to its clean, blue flame.

Magnolia Chicken + Magnolia All Purpose Flour = A PERFECT COMBINATION

FILIPINOS have an intense love affair with fried chicken that is showing no signs of ever burning out.

That's good news for the millions of carinderias all over the country that depend a great deal on the Filipino penchant to keep their stalls busy and in the black.

These carinderia may have their own super secret recipe for making the perfect fried chicken, but for sure, there will be one of the ingredients.

Restaurants for centuries to owners and historians and historical, there a Magnolia All Purpose Flour, which is the perfect partner in making crispy fried chicken out of Magnolia Chicken.

When it comes to flour, few can come close to the quality of Magnolia All Purpose Flour, which is manufactured by San Miguel Mills Inc., the trusted leader in the growing flour industry.

Carinderia longer and quality and client customized care. Just removed of Magnolia All Purpose Flour's quality and consistency. It is the perfect partner in every carinderia as it is used in breading for chicken, pork, fish and vegetables, it can also be used to make soups or thicken sauces and gravies.

Magnolia All-Purpose Flour also has Vitamin A and iron content for that added nutritional value. It is likewise fortified, thus can be enjoyed by the Muslim community that adheres to special dietary laws.

Indeed, with Magnolia All-Purpose Flour, crispy fried chicken never tasted better.

Magnolia All-Purpose Flour also has Vitamin A and iron content for that added nutritional value.

Kapihans have become an iconic part of Filipino culture

SUPREME have provided affordable coffee drinks from simple kape to more cool coffee shops to pack cafés.

There are now over 5,000 all over the country and San Mig Coffee believes that even more will come into the scene.

Carinderias encouraged to do their part through the franchise program of San Mig Coffee in way of helping the carinderia expand their business.

San Mig Coffee's assortment of products are San Mig Coffee Super Pack, available in four flavors: Super Brown, White and Chocolate.

Magnolia Chicken Unveils Carinderia Alaga Rewards at Carinderia Fiesta 2012

from page 1

products. "We a lot of people love that Magnolia Fresh Chicken is also available in their neighborhood Discovery Mindshops," adds Lugay.

Thru this partnership, Magnolia Chicken CARES program members are also entitled to receive quarterly Monterey Mindshop Plus specials catalogues, which will carry such a dedicated section for Magnolia Chicken CARES, showcasing all-time-low freebies and unique promotions for its members. Monthly product highlights allow members to get additional prizes not only from Magnolia Fresh Chicken and Monterey, but also from other partner products sold in the store shops. In addition, members also get occasional invites to exclusive events of Magnolia Chicken and Monterey Meats.

The merging of Carinderia Fiesta, along with the launch of Magnolia Chicken CARES to really all about establishing and building a relationship between the brand and its carinderia customers.

"We really believe in this program's potential and we want to show that we are sincere in seeing the relationships with the carinderias. We see a lot of possibilities that can emerge from this small effort which will hopefully flourish into a long-term partnership with the partners," Lugay says.

Needless to say, carinderias can now truly enjoy "Alagang Magnolia."

It's easy to become a member of Magnolia Chicken CARES.

[Text on a registered carinderia owner, simply go to the Magnolia Chicken Carinderia Store ONLY at the World Trade Center in QC. E-mail or call the following requirements:
(1) Proof of identification card, valid government-issued ID or Company/School ID)
(2) Photocopy of business permit, or business/establishment card
(3) Proof of purchase of P500 worth of Magnolia Chicken or Monterey products bought at Monterey Mindshop Plus outlets (neighborhood Discovery Mindshops) over the past six months.
So what are you waiting for? Come to the Magnolia Chicken Carinderia Fiesta 2012 and join the Magnolia Chicken CARES program! Go Magnalia Chicken CARES, marami kayo ng alaga sa ating Magnolia!
For inquiries, please call the Carinderia Fiesta Secretariat at (02) 899-1941 to 44.]

Ginebra San Miguel fits in a Carinderia setting

THERE ARE two ties to each that can boast of being older than the Philippine revolution.

Ginebra San Miguel is one of them and, since 1834, has been very much a part of Filipino celebrations for generations. No special occasion is complete without the smooth drink distilled and bottled the unique trimetra bar Miguel way.

One doesn't even need a special occasion to enjoy gin. These days, you can raised down such a bottle of Ginebra San Miguel at the carinderia after a long day.

Like the cut-cut store, the carinderia is an important point of pride and order in the distribution network of Ginebra San Miguel, Inc (GSMI). GSMI, one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of hard liquor in the world, is even looking to strengthen its bond with the Filipino eatery.

"The carinderia is the center of the menu," explains Nelson S. Elizon, Vice President and Marketing Manager of Ginebra San Miguel, Inc.

And with Ginebra San Miguel's support in the second run of Carinderia Prints, the brand pays tribute to the hardworking people behind the flourishing carinderia trade that serves, not only the masses, but customers from all walks of life.

Like Ginebra San Miguel, the carinderia is a solid in hardworking people and the Filipino carinderia. The campaign 'Lahing Ginebra, Kasi Tayo' is a salute to the fun type of the Pinoy," says Elizon.

The brand has deployed legendary Ginebra San Miguel player and coach Robert Jaworski, for a series of television commercials that tap into the Ginebra spirit found in so many Filipinos.

"We want to bring added excitement into the brand as we are building around our Lahing Ginebra campaign," says Elizon. "At the same time, we are rousing up with new products in concert with the younger crowd that is slowly discovering the joys of drinking gin."

Elizon says that carinderia owners and the public can sample gin with lower alcohol content. Reversed gin and mixed wines drive Carinderia Prints II.

For example, dry and chinese that has been becomes even more delicious if paired with Ginebra vodka infused Dynsty. When choosing a flavor to drink is the order of the day, there is nothing like GSM Blue Gin mixed with Magnolia Fruitshot, powdered juice drink to make conversations even more interesting. The strengthened partnership with GSMI will provide carinderia owners added income.

"The good thing about gin is that it is almost neutral, it is easy to mix with other ingredients and it goes down well. This is also why gin is a drink of choice at the carinderia. We intend to be the only choice," hyping words from Elizon.

Bernard Marquez, President, GSMI

Nelson Elizon, Vice President and Marketing Manager of Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

Loved by Filipinos, recognized across Asia

THE REST of Asia has finally recognized what households all over the Philippines have always known – that when it comes to fresh, high quality chicken, pork, and beef, San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) products are a cut above the rest.

This is why SMFI, a subsidiary of San Miguel Pure Foods Company Inc. (SMPFC), the food division of conglomerate San Miguel Corporation (SMC), won the 2011 Asian Livestock Industry Awards, beating equally large and experienced counterparts in the region.

The prestigious award was given during the Livestock Asia Expo and Forum last year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where SMFI's Poultry and Meats Business was deemed superior to four companies – industry leadership, use of technology in operations, health and safety, and marketing and promotions.

SMFI brands, Magnolia Fresh Chicken and Monterey Meats, are indeed the most recognized and undisputed leaders in the Philippines, answering for more than 40 percent of the country's total broiler chicken output and 3 percent of total pork – the highest share in Fresh Meat segments in the Philippines.

SMFI is able to achieve these feats as it produces, sells, and marketing outputs is owned or come in the Philippines.

The company operates over 1,600 broiler chicken growing farms nationwide as well as the operations of over 250 breeder farms, hatcheries and processing plants. It also has over 400 pig farms nationwide with corresponding processing facilities, as well as two cattle feeding facilities and a feedlot complex.

In addition to selling its products through over 1,200 branded outlets nationwide consisting of both supermarket-based and free-standing meat shops and chicken eateries and or expanding walk-in-out, meat chicken and barbecue stores, SMFI also supplies traditional wet markets through exclusive distributors nationwide.

Likewise, it directly supplies the restaurant and growing requirements of the country's largest fast food chains (Jollibee, KFC, McDonald's, and Mang Inasal, for example) and other institutional customers whose high quality standards only SMFI meat products can match.

SMFI's marketing arm has also been exerting massive efforts to spread the word on the kind of care and quality that are adhered to the group's meats and chicken products.

From 360 degree communication and advertising campaigns to promoting efforts that make the product experience more convenient and enjoyable like the Magnolia Chicken Station and the Hungry Jean store chicken kiosks, to the Monterey Neighborhood Meatshop which makes quality more accessible within minutes from homes, SMFI puts as much care in promoting its products as in producing them.

Combined with everything else, what comes out are winning brands that have captured the hearts, minds as well as stomachs of millions of Filipinos.

In fact, Monterey and Magnolia Fresh Chicken were named Trusted Brands in the Fresh Meats Category by Reader's Digest Philippines for the third year in a row. Monterey Meats and Magnolia Fresh Chicken have been the undisputed winners in the Fresh Meats Category since it was included in the awards since in 2009.

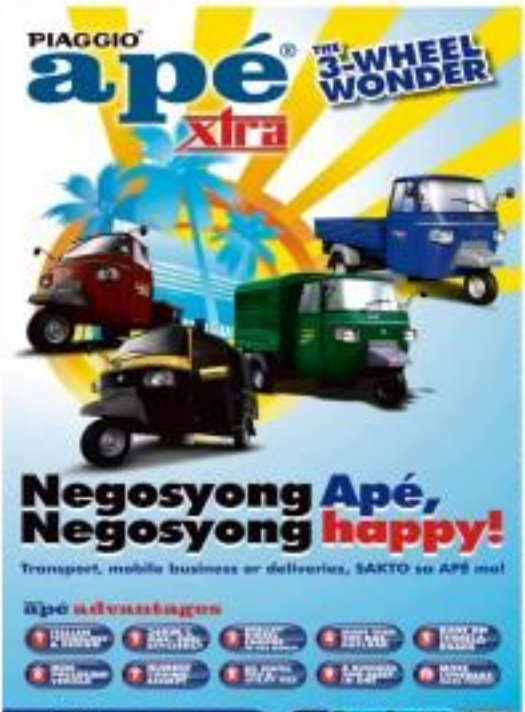
Regarded as the premier consumer-based measure of brand preference, the Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Survey is conducted annually among subscribers of the magazine and residents in selected consumers in eight Asian markets – China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. All winning brands were rated based on six qualitative criteria – Trustworthiness and Credibility, Quality, Value, Understanding of Consumer Needs, Innovation, and Social Responsibility – qualities that both brands strongly espouse.

Both SMFI brands have been actively nurturing their commitment to consumers through long-term marketing efforts that go beyond merely selling fresh chicken, pork, and beef.

Monterey's Know Your Meat Campaign is an advocacy program that aims to educate its audience about the importance of buying fresh and high quality meats through nationwide homeroom seminars with assistance conducted by SMFI experts. The National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) also conducts a separate proper meat handling and food safety.

Meanwhile, Magnolia Fresh Chicken, through its Magnolia Kitchens program, spearheaded the highly successful staging of the first Magnolia Chicken Carinderia Prints last year, which helped owners of small and medium-scale food entrepreneurs.

The Asian Livestock Industry Award and the Readers' Digest Trusted Brand recognitions serve as the ultimate seal of consumer approval and industry recognition on Monterey and Magnolia Fresh Chicken.

SMFI regards these accolades as an inspiration to stay true to its commitment to quality, safety and consumer service.

Dr. Leo Olivier (right) receives the 2011 Asian Livestock Industry award for SMFI.